

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H1/15/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1051

By: Representative Andrews

By: Senator B. Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL START DATE
REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL START DATE
REQUIREMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-106(a), concerning the first day of the school year for public schools, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1)(A) Each school year, each public school district board of directors or governing entity of an open-enrollment public charter school shall establish by policy the first day of the school year for student attendance in public elementary and secondary schools ~~shall be~~

~~(i) On or after the Monday of the week in which August 19 falls;~~

~~(ii) Not earlier than August 14; and~~

~~(iii) Not later than August 26.~~

(B) ~~The date for beginning the school year shall be determined by the board of directors of each school district~~ The first day of the school year for student attendance established under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section shall comply with the number of student-teacher interaction days or hours required by the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts established by the State Board of Education.

~~(C)(2)~~ Labor Day shall be celebrated as a school holiday in all



the school districts of the state, and school shall not be held on that date.

~~(D)~~(3) As used in this section, "week" means a seven-day period that begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday.

~~(2) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education may grant a school district a waiver to begin school on an earlier or a later date if the division determines that there exists a material and substantial reason for the school district to begin school on an earlier or a later date due to very exceptional or emergency circumstances such as a contagious disease outbreak, inclement weather, or other acts of God.~~

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that public schools need ample time to select and announce the school calendar for the upcoming school year, which requires meetings and determinations of certain dates; that for purposes of teacher and administrator contracts, establishing the school calendar is vital; and that this act is immediately necessary because public schools need to know as soon as possible what the statutory requirements are with respect to establishing the school calendars for the upcoming school year. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto."

/s/Andrews