

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

As Engrossed: H1/18/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1122

5 By: Representatives Vaught, J. Mayberry, Cozart
6 By: Senator K. Hammer
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DATES FOR THE
10 BEGINNING AND END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR; TO DECLARE AN
11 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DATES FOR
16 THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR;
17 AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-106(a), concerning the dates for the
23 beginning and end of the school year, is amended to read as follows:

24 (a)(1)(A) ~~Beginning with the 2023-2024~~ Each school year, the first day
25 of the school year for student attendance in public elementary and secondary
26 schools shall ~~not be earlier than the Monday two (2) weeks before Labor Day;~~

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

29 (ii) Not earlier than August 14; and

30 (iii) Not later than August 26.

31 (B) The date for beginning the school year shall be
32 determined by the board of directors of each school district ~~in accordance~~
33 ~~with subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section.~~

34 (C) Labor Day shall be celebrated as a school holiday in
35 all the school districts of the state, and school shall not be held on that
36 date.



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

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

9 ~~(B) The division shall not grant a public school district~~
10 ~~a waiver under § 6-15-103 to begin school on an earlier date.~~

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12 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
13 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that public schools need a certain
14 amount of time to determine the school calendar for the upcoming school year,
15 which requires meetings and determinations of dates certain; that for
16 purposes of teacher and administrator contracts, establishing the school
17 calendar is important; and that this act is immediately necessary because
18 public schools need to know as soon as practicable what the statutory
19 requirements are with respect to establishing the school calendars for the
20 upcoming school year. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this
21 act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace,
22 health, and safety shall become effective on:

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

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

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

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30 /s/Vaught

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33 **APPROVED: 1/30/23**