1	INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-068
2	State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/25/19
3	92nd General Assembly A B1II
4	Regular Session, 2019 HOUSE BILL 1390
5	
6	By: Representatives Lowery, Cozart
7	Filed with: House Committee on Education
8	pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.
9	For An Act To Be Entitled
10	AN ACT CONCERNING THE DATES FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE
11	SCHOOL YEAR; TO AMEND THE DATE ON WHICH PUBLIC
12	SCHOOLS SHALL BEGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR; TO ALLOW A
13	PUBLIC SCHOOL TO TRANSITION FROM A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF
14	DAYS REQUIRED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR TO A CERTAIN
15	AMOUNT OF HOURS REQUIRED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR; AND
16	FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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19	Subtitle
20	TO AMEND THE DATE ON WHICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
21	BEGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR; AND TO ALLOW
22	PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO TRANSITION FROM A
23	CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DAYS REQUIRED DURING
24	THE SCHOOL YEAR TO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF
25	HOURS REQUIRED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.
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28	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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30	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-106(a), concerning the dates for the
31	beginning and end of the school year is amended to read as follows:
32	(a)(1)(A) In each school year Beginning with the 2020-2021 school
33	<u>year</u> , the first day of the school year for student attendance in the public
34	elementary and secondary schools of the State of Arkansas shall <u>not</u> be
35	(i) On or after the Monday of the week in which
36	August 10 falls.

1	(ii) Not earlier than August 14; and the third
2	Monday of each August
3	(iii) Not later than August 26.
4	(B) The date for beginning the school year shall be
5	determined by the board of directors of $\frac{1}{1}$ each school district $\frac{1}{1}$
6	accordance with subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section.
7	(C) Labor Day shall be celebrated as a school holiday in
8	all the school districts of the state, and school shall not be held on that
9	date.
10	(D)(C) As used in this section, "week" means a seven-day
11	period that begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday.
12	(2) $\underline{(A)}$ The Department of Education may grant a school district a
13	waiver to begin school on $rac{an}{a}$ earlier or $rac{a}{a}$ later date if the department
14	determines that there exists a material and substantial reason for the school
15	district to begin ${ m school}$ on ${ m an~earlier~or}$ ${ m a}$ later date due to very
16	exceptional or emergency circumstances such as a contagious disease outbreak,
17	inclement weather, or other acts of God.
18	(B) The department shall not grant a public school
19	district a waiver under § 6-15-103 to begin school on an earlier date.
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21	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-16-102, concerning the definition of a
22	"school day" is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:
23	(d)(l)(A) A public school or open-enrollment public charter school may
24	transition from a certain number of days for student-teacher interaction time
25	required by the Department of Education to a certain number of hours for
26	student-teacher interaction time if the public school or open-enrollment
27	public charter school submits to the department a plan that accommodates and
28	assures the following without limitation:
29	(i) Professional development requirements;
30	(ii) Alternative methods of instruction plans;
31	(iii) The number of minutes of instruction by a
32	public school teacher required per week during the school year;
33	(iv) A plan to ensure that contracts of the public
34	school's teachers are not affected by the transition requested under this
35	subdivision (d)(l)(A); and

1	(v) Any other relevant information regarding aspects
2	of public school education and reporting requirements that may be affected by
3	the transition requested under this subdivision $(d)(1)(A)$.
4	(B) The department shall approve a public school's or
5	open-enrollment public charter school's submitted plan under subdivision
6	(d)(l)(A) of this section unless the public school's or open-enrollment
7	public charter school's submitted plan does not meet the requirements of the
8	department under subdivision $(d)(1)(A)$ of this section.
9	(2) A plan submitted by a public school or open-enrollment
10	public charter school under subdivision (d)(l)(A) of this section shall be
11	submitted to the department by July 1 of the year in which the public school
12	or open-enrollment public charter school is requesting that the transition
13	under subdivision (d)(l)(A) take place.
14	(3) The department shall submit annually by August 1 to the
15	House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education a list of
16	public schools and open-enrollment public charter schools that have requested
17	and received approval for a plan to transition from a certain number of days
18	for student-teacher interaction time to a certain number of hours for
19	student-teacher interaction time under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section.
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22	/s/Lowery
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25	Referred requested by the Arkansas House of Representatives
26	Prepared by: TNL/VJF
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