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1	INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-068
2	State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/25/19
3	92nd General Assembly A B111
4	Regular Session, 2019HOUSE BILL 1390
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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)(l)(A)
33	<u>year</u> , the first day of the school year for student attendance in <del>the</del> public
34	elementary and secondary schools <del>of the State of Arkansas</del> shall <u>not</u> be <del>:</del>
35	(i) On or after the Monday of the week in which
36	August 19 falls;

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I.S.P. 2019-068

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 the each school district in 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 period that begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday. 11 12 (2)(A) The Department of Education may grant a school district a 13 waiver to begin school on an earlier or a later date if the department 14 determines that there exists a material and substantial reason for the school 15 district to begin <u>school</u> on <del>an earlier or</del> <u>a</u> 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. 20 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 transition from a certain number of days for student-teacher interaction time 24 25 required by the Department of Education to a certain number of hours for student-teacher interaction time if the public school or open-enrollment 26 27 public charter school submits to the department a plan that accommodates and assures the following without limitation: 28 29 (i) Professional development requirements; 30 (ii) Alternative methods of instruction plans; (iii) The number of minutes of instruction by a 31 32 public school teacher required per week during the school year; 33 (iv) A plan to ensure that contracts of the public school's teachers are not affected by the transition requested under this 34 35 subdivision (d)(l)(A); and

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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)(l)(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)(l)(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)(l)(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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