

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly

A Bill

CRH/CRH
SENATE BILL

By: Senator Crowell

Filed with: Legislative Council
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT
IMPLEMENTS A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL
WITHIN ITS DISTRICT; TO ESTABLISH THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT INITIATES AND
MAINTAINS A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK; TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT INITIATES
AND MAINTAINS A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK;
AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-117 is amended to read as follows:

6-10-117. Four-day school week – Definition.

(a)(1) It is found and determined by the General Assembly that
granting ~~local~~ public school districts greater flexibility in scheduling
instructional time can reap educational benefits for the students and
financial rewards for the public school district.

(2) It is the intent of this section to authorize ~~local~~ public
school districts to initiate and maintain public school educational programs
on a four-day school-week basis, ~~so long as~~ if planned instructional time ~~is~~

1 ~~in accord with requirements established by~~ meets the State Board of Education
 2 requirements promulgated under subsection (d) of this section.

3 (b) As used in this section, "four-day school week" means an
 4 educational program in which all students attend school for four (4) days a
 5 week but no fewer than the total number of hours required by the Standards
 6 for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts in a five-
 7 day school week.

8 (c)(1) The board of directors of ~~any a public~~ a public school district ~~is~~
 9 ~~authorized to~~ may initiate and maintain a four-day school week in any or all
 10 of the public schools in the public school district.

11 (2) The state board and the Department of Education shall not
 12 have the authority to approve or deny the decision of a public school
 13 district board of directors to initiate and maintain a four-day school week
 14 in any or all of its public schools under subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

15 (d)(1) ~~The State Board of Education~~ state board shall establish
 16 appropriate standards, guidelines, and rules for only the following:

17 (A)(i) The determination of ~~average daily membership of~~
 18 ~~school districts and for~~ the distribution of state aid to each local public
 19 school district that elects to operate any or all of the public schools of
 20 its school district on a four-day school-week basis, to provide the public
 21 school district with an equitable share of state aid funds.

22 (ii) The state aid funds under subdivision
 23 (d)(1)(A)(i) of this section that are designated to ~~equate a four-day school-~~
 24 ~~week operation by the school district to~~ ensure the educational opportunities
 25 provided by a public school district offering a four-day school week are
 26 equivalent to the educational opportunities provided by a public school
 27 district offering a five-day school week or a public school that follows a
 28 traditional calendar;

29 (B) The requirement that each public school district that
 30 initiates and maintains a four-day school week for any or all of its public
 31 schools under this section shall:

32 (i)(a) Average six (6) hours of instruction per
 33 school day and thirty (30) hours of instruction per school week.

34 (b) The hourly requirements under subdivision
 35 (d)(1)(B)(i)(a) of this section may be met with four (4) seven-and-one-half-
 36 hour school instructional days.

1 (c) A public school district that initiates
2 and maintains a four-day school week in a public school that provides
3 instruction to students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall meet the
4 clock-hour equivalency of one hundred twenty (120) clock hours for a Carnegie
5 unit;

6 (ii)(a) Provide documentation to the Division of
7 Elementary and Secondary Education to determine the success of the
8 educational program.

9 (b) Assessment measures utilized by the
10 division under subdivision (d)(1)(B)(ii)(a) of this section shall include
11 without limitation state-approved criterion-referenced tests and other
12 assessment instruments required or approved by the division; and

13 (iii) Include the four-day school week on the agenda
14 for the public school district's required annual report to the public to
15 determine local support for and provide for continual community input into
16 the success and continuation of four-day school weeks; and

17 (C) The forfeiture of the ability to initiate and maintain
18 a four-day school week under this section if a public school district:

19 (i) Is classified by the state board as in need of
20 Level 5 – Intensive support; and

21 (ii) Demonstrates persistent underperformance, as
22 defined by state benchmarks, on the state-approved criterion-referenced test
23 and other assessment instruments required or approved by the division.

24 (2) ~~Provided, however, that a~~ A public school district shall not
25 receive any more state financial aid for offering a four-day school week of
26 instruction than it would have received for offering a five-day school week
27 of instruction.

28 (3) The state board and the department shall not promulgate
29 rules regarding public school districts that initiate and maintain a four-day
30 school week for any or all of its public schools that are in addition to the
31 requirements under this subsection (d).

32 (4) A public school district that initiates and maintains a
33 four-day school week for any or all of its public schools under this section
34 shall:

35 (A) Demonstrate compliance with the requirements under
36 subdivision (d)(1) of this section through a state-approved electronic

1 application; and

2 (B) Not be required to submit additional reports or
3 demonstrations of compliance with the requirements under subdivision (d)(1)
4 of this section to the state board or division.

5
6 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
7 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that school districts must
8 determine and publish their school calendars in advance of the upcoming 2025-
9 2026 school year; that school districts must have their school calendars
10 established in order to prepare appropriate staffing, operational, and
11 financial needs; that parents, students, staff members, and others associated
12 with school districts must know in advance of the upcoming school year what
13 the school calendar will be in order to make necessary arrangements; and that
14 this act is immediately necessary to ensure school districts have the
15 required information to arrange for and provide constitutionally mandated
16 education to enrolled students. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist,
17 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
18 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

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

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

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

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27 Referred by Senator Crowell

28 Prepared by: CRH/CRH

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