

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 83rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2001  
4

*As Engrossed: H3/30/01*

## A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1537

5 By: Representative G. Jeffress  
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### For An Act To Be Entitled

9 *AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 6-10-106 PERTAINING*  
10 *TO THE UNIFORM DATES FOR THE BEGINNING AND END OF*  
11 *THE SCHOOL YEAR; TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF*  
12 *REQUIREMENTS OF STUDENT TEACHER CONTACT DAYS; AND*  
13 *FOR OTHER PURPOSES.*

### Subtitle

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16 *AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 6-10-106*  
17 *PERTAINING TO THE UNIFORM DATES FOR THE*  
18 *BEGINNING AND END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR; TO*  
19 *ALLOW A WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS OF*  
20 *STUDENT TEACHER CONTACT DAYS.*

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

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25 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-10-106 is amended to read as follows:*

26 *6-10-106. Uniform dates for beginning and end of school year.*

27 *(a)(1) In each school year, the first day of the school year for*  
28 *student attendance in the public elementary and secondary schools of the State*  
29 *of Arkansas shall begin no earlier than August 19 and no later than August 26.*  
30 *If, however, August 18 falls on a Monday, school may begin on that date. The*  
31 *date for beginning the school year shall be determined by the school board of*  
32 *the school district. Labor Day shall be celebrated as a school holiday in all*  
33 *the school districts of the state, and school shall not be held on that date.*

34  
35 *(2) The Department of Education may grant a school district a*  
36 *wavier to begin school on an earlier or later date if the department*

1 determines that there exists a material and substantial reason for the school  
 2 district to begin on an earlier or later date due to very exceptional or  
 3 emergency circumstances such as a contagious disease outbreak, inclement  
 4 weather, or other acts of God.

5 (b)(1) Contracts of employment for certified and noncertified employees  
 6 of school districts may require school district employees to begin performance  
 7 under their contract of employment prior to the first day of student  
 8 attendance.

9 (2)(A) A local school board may waive up to three (3) contract  
 10 days of certified or noncertified employees' contract days that have been  
 11 missed in excess due to contagious disease outbreaks, inclement weather, fire,  
 12 disasters or other acts of God.

13 (B) Any contract days waived under subdivision (2)(A) of  
 14 this section, shall not cause a reduction in the certified or noncertified  
 15 employees contract salary.

16 (C) Any contract days waived under subdivision (2)(A) of  
 17 this section, shall also be waived by the State Board of Education for  
 18 purposes of student/teacher contact day requirements.

19 (c) If the school year in any school district extends beyond the date  
 20 observed as Memorial Day, such date shall be a holiday in the district.  
 21 Provided, upon approval of the department, this date may be used as a make-up  
 22 day in any school district which has unavoidably lost more than five (5)  
 23 scheduled days of student attendance during the course of the school year due  
 24 to contagious disease outbreaks, inclement weather, or other acts of God.

25 (d) No other waiver from the requirements of this section shall be  
 26 granted.

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28 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General  
 29 Assembly that an excess of school days were missed during the 2000-2001 school  
 30 year due to inclement weather in many parts of the state; that local school  
 31 boards need to take corrective actions as necessary in each school district  
 32 prior to the end of the school year; and that immediate relief is necessary  
 33 for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety. Therefore, an  
 34 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for  
 35 the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall become effective  
 36 on the date of its approval by the Governor. If the bill is neither approved

1 nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the  
2 period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is  
3 vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective  
4 on the date the last house overrides the veto.

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/s/ G. Jeffress