

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

As Engrossed: H3/25/19

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1390

5 By: Representatives Lowery, Cozart  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DATES FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE  
9 SCHOOL YEAR; TO AMEND THE DATE ON WHICH PUBLIC  
10 SCHOOLS SHALL BEGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR; TO ALLOW A  
11 PUBLIC SCHOOL TO TRANSITION FROM A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF  
12 DAYS REQUIRED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR TO A CERTAIN  
13 AMOUNT OF HOURS REQUIRED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR; AND  
14 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

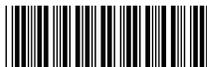
## Subtitle

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17 TO AMEND THE DATE ON WHICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
18 BEGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR; AND TO ALLOW  
19 PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO TRANSITION FROM A  
20 CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DAYS REQUIRED DURING  
21 THE SCHOOL YEAR TO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF  
22 HOURS REQUIRED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.  
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-106(a), concerning the dates for the  
29 beginning and end of the school year is amended to read as follows:

30 (a)(1)(A) ~~In each school year~~ Beginning with the 2020-2021 school  
31 year, the first day of the school year for student attendance in the public  
32 elementary and secondary schools ~~of the State of Arkansas~~ shall not be+  
33 ~~(i) On or after the Monday of the week in which~~  
34 ~~August 19 falls;~~  
35 ~~(ii) Not earlier than August 14; and~~ the third  
36 Monday of each August



1 ~~(iii) Not later than August 26.~~

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

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

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

10 (2)(A) The Department of Education may grant a school district a  
11 waiver to begin school on ~~an earlier or~~ a later date if the department  
12 determines that there exists a material and substantial reason for the school  
13 district to begin school on ~~an earlier or~~ a later date due to very  
14 exceptional or emergency circumstances such as a contagious disease outbreak,  
15 *inclement weather, or other acts of God.*

16 (B) The department shall not grant a public school  
17 district a waiver under § 6-15-103 to begin school on an earlier date.

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19 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-16-102, concerning the definition of a  
20 "school day" is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

21 (d)(1)(A) A public school or open-enrollment public charter school may  
22 transition from a certain number of days for student-teacher interaction time  
23 required by the Department of Education to a certain number of hours for  
24 student-teacher interaction time if the public school or open-enrollment  
25 public charter school submits to the department a plan that accommodates and  
26 assures the following without limitation:

27 (i) Professional development requirements;

28 (ii) Alternative methods of instruction plans;

29 (iii) The number of minutes of instruction by a  
30 public school teacher required per week during the school year;

31 (iv) A plan to ensure that contracts of the public  
32 school's teachers are not affected by the transition requested under this  
33 subdivision (d)(1)(A); and

34 (v) Any other relevant information regarding aspects  
35 of public school education and reporting requirements that may be affected by  
36 the transition requested under this subdivision (d)(1)(A).

1                   (B) The department shall approve a public school's or  
2 open-enrollment public charter school's submitted plan under subdivision  
3 (d)(1)(A) of this section unless the public school's or open-enrollment  
4 public charter school's submitted plan does not meet the requirements of the  
5 department under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section.

6                   (2) A plan submitted by a public school or open-enrollment  
7 public charter school under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section shall be  
8 submitted to the department by July 1 of the year in which the public school  
9 or open-enrollment public charter school is requesting that the transition  
10 under subdivision (d)(1)(A) take place.

11                   (3) The department shall submit annually by August 1 to the  
12 House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education a list of  
13 public schools and open-enrollment public charter schools that have requested  
14 and received approval for a plan to transition from a certain number of days  
15 for student-teacher interaction time to a certain number of hours for  
16 student-teacher interaction time under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section.

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