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**HOUSE BILL 1803**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Orcutt and Santos

Read first time 01/31/19. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the number of school districts that  
2 may be authorized to reduce the minimum number of required school  
3 days in a school year; amending RCW 28A.150.222; and declaring an  
4 emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.150.222 and 2018 c 177 s 503 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (1) In addition to waivers authorized under RCW 28A.300.750, the  
9 superintendent of public instruction, in accordance with the criteria  
10 in subsection (2) of this section and criteria adopted by the state  
11 board of education under subsection (3) of this section, may grant  
12 waivers of the requirement for a one hundred eighty-day school year  
13 under RCW 28A.150.220 to school districts that propose to operate one  
14 or more schools on a flexible calendar for purposes of economy and  
15 efficiency as provided in this section. The requirement under RCW  
16 28A.150.220 that school districts offer minimum instructional hours  
17 may not be waived.

18 (2) A school district seeking a waiver under this section must  
19 submit an application to the superintendent of public instruction  
20 that includes:

1 (a) A proposed calendar for the school day and school year that  
2 demonstrates how the instructional hour requirement will be  
3 maintained;

4 (b) An explanation and estimate of the economies and efficiencies  
5 to be gained from compressing the instructional hours into fewer than  
6 one hundred eighty days;

7 (c) An explanation of how monetary savings from the proposal will  
8 be redirected to support student learning;

9 (d) A summary of comments received at one or more public hearings  
10 on the proposal and how concerns will be addressed;

11 (e) An explanation of the impact on students who rely upon free  
12 and reduced-price school child nutrition services and the impact on  
13 the ability of the child nutrition program to operate an economically  
14 independent program;

15 (f) An explanation of the impact on employees in education  
16 support positions and the ability to recruit and retain employees in  
17 education support positions;

18 (g) An explanation of the impact on students whose parents work  
19 during the missed school day; and

20 (h) Other information that the superintendent of public  
21 instruction may request to assure that the proposed flexible calendar  
22 will not adversely affect student learning.

23 (3) The state board of education shall adopt rules establishing  
24 the criteria to evaluate waiver requests under this section. A waiver  
25 may be effective for up to three years and may be renewed for  
26 subsequent periods of three or fewer years. After each school year in  
27 which a waiver has been granted under this section, the  
28 superintendent of public instruction must analyze empirical evidence  
29 to determine whether the reduction is affecting student learning. If  
30 the superintendent of public instruction determines that student  
31 learning is adversely affected, the school district must discontinue  
32 the flexible calendar as soon as possible but not later than the  
33 beginning of the next school year after the superintendent of public  
34 instruction's determination.

35 (4) The superintendent of public instruction may grant waivers  
36 authorized under this section to (~~five~~) fifteen or fewer school  
37 districts with student populations of less than five hundred  
38 students. Of the (~~five~~) fifteen waivers that may be granted, two  
39 must be reserved for districts with student populations of less than  
40 one hundred fifty students.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
2    preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
3    the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
4    effect immediately.

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