
Education Committee

HB 2381

Brief Description: Increasing eligibility for economy and efficiency flexible school calendar waivers.

Sponsors: Representatives McEntire, Shavers and Chapman; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Brief Summary of Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to grant waivers to reduce the minimum number of school days required in a school year to school districts with fewer than 1,000 students.

Hearing Date: 1/22/24

Staff: Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

Background:

The Legislature establishes the minimum instructional program of basic education that must be offered by school districts. Among other requirements, the state's program of basic education obligates school districts to:

- provide instruction to students in accordance with the state learning standards, the grade-level learning standards developed by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and
- have their educational program accessible to all students who are at least 5 years of age and less than 21 years of age for a minimum of 180 days per school year.

School districts must also provide a specified minimum number of instructional hours per year, which are defined as those hours during which students are provided the opportunity to engage in

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

educational activity planned by, and under the direction of, school district staff.

School districts may seek waivers for certain education laws and rules under prescribed circumstances. For example, the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), in accordance with criteria established by the State Board of Education, may grant three-year renewable waivers from the 180-day school year requirement to school districts that propose to operate one or more schools on a flexible calendar for purposes of economy and efficiency.

A school district seeking a waiver from the 180-day school year requirement must submit an application to the SPI that meets specific content requirements, including having:

- a proposed calendar for the school day and school year that demonstrates how instructional hour requirements will be maintained;
- an explanation and estimate of the economies and efficiencies to be gained from compressing the instructional hours into fewer than 180 days; and
- a summary of comments received at one or more public hearings on the proposal and how concerns will be addressed.

The SPI is limited to issuing the 180-day school year waivers to 10 school districts, and eligible districts must have fewer than 500 students. Of the waivers that may be issued, two must be reserved for school districts with fewer than 150 students.

Summary of Bill:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction is authorized grant waivers to reduce the minimum number of school days required in a school year to school districts with fewer than 1,000 students. Application criteria and other provisions governing the 180-day school year waivers are unchanged.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.