

HB 849 -- School Calendar

Sponsor: Cookson

Currently, a school district must adopt a calendar of at least 174 days and 1,044 hours unless it adopts a four-day week, which requires 1,044 hours and 142 days. This bill removes the requirement for the 174 days for both four- and five-day week calendars and the provisions regarding restrictions on the use of a shorter calendar by a school district that experiences a drop of at least two performance standards in two successive annual performance reports. The earliest opening day of school is changed from 10 days before the first Monday in September to the first Tuesday after Labor Day, and the closing date must be no later than the Friday before Memorial Day. Provisions regarding the hearing procedure for setting an earlier opening date, the authority of the State Board of Education within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to grant an exemption of the requirements for good cause, and the restrictions on the length of the school day are also removed.