

HB 135 -- SCHOOL CALENDAR

SPONSOR: Rowland

Currently, public schools are required to be in session for a minimum of 174 days and 1,044 hours. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, this bill changes the requirement to a minimum of 1,080 hours of actual pupil attendance with no minimum number of required school days except for kindergarten pupils who must be provided a minimum of 540 hours of actual pupil attendance with no minimum number of days.

Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, when determining the amount of state aid to the Division of Youth Services in the Department of Social Services for educational services to elementary and secondary students who have been assigned to the division by the courts and who have been determined as inappropriate for local public school attendance, the number of full-time equivalent students must be determined by dividing 1,080 hours by the number of student-hours. A student hour must mean one hour of education services provided for one student.

Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, each school calendar must include 36 make-up hours for possible loss of attendance due to inclement weather. A school district may be exempt from the requirement to make up school lost or canceled due to inclement weather when the district has made up the required 36 hours and half the number of additional lost or canceled hours up to 48, resulting in no more than 60 total make-up hours.

The Commissioner of Education within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education may provide, upon request, a waiver for any school district to be excused from the 1,044 hours of actual pupil attendance requirement.

The provisions allowing a school district to establish a four-day school week are repealed. The repeal will become effective on July 1, 2016.