

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Proposes to give school districts greater operating flexibility and relief from certain mandates related to district finances and publishing requirements, among other relief.

Section

- 1 School calendar.** Allows a school district to begin school before Labor Day but prevents the district from scheduling a student instruction day on the Thursday or Friday before Labor Day. Allows teacher workshops to be held on the Thursday or Friday before Labor Day.

Makes this section effective for the 2010-2011 school year and later.
- 2 Length of school year; days of instruction.** (b) Allows a school district that had at least 178 instructional or professional development days in the 2008-2009 school year to reduce its calendar to 178 calendar days beginning in the 2010-2011 school year as long as the total number of student contact hours in the 2010-2011 school year or later remains at least equal to the total in the 2008-2009 school year.

Makes this effective for the 2010-2011 school year and later.
- 3 Notice and public hearing on proposed agreement.** (a) Allows a school board that enters into an agreement to establish an education district to publish notice of the summary of the proposed agreement in a local newspaper and to publish the summary of the proposed agreement and its effect on the official district Website.

Makes this section immediately effective.
- 4 Notice; informational hearing.** Allows a school board to publish notice of an informational hearing regarding an inter-district cooperative agreement on the official district Website and to send electronic notice of the meeting to parents of affected pupils.

Makes this section immediately effective.

- 5** **Insufficient funds to pay orders.** (b) Increases the credit amount a school district may seek from 90 percent to 380 percent of the average monthly operating expenditures in the previous fiscal year. Requires a school district to repay the amounts advanced to it within 120 days instead of 45 days.

Makes this section immediately effective.

- 6** **Sale at auction.** Allows notice of an auction sale to be published on the Web site of a member school district board or on the Web site of the board of a cooperative center for vocational education.

Makes this section immediately effective.

- 7** **Hearing.** Allows a school board to publish notice of a hearing to initiate a student fee on the school district's official Web site.

Makes this section immediately effective.

- 8** **Schoolhouse closing.** Allows a school board to provide meeting details regarding a public hearing to close a schoolhouse on the school district's official Web site.

Makes this section immediately effective.

- 9** **Contracts.** Requires school boards to publish advertisements with specific details about bids or proposals for contracts for work or labor or certain purchases in the official district newspaper or on the district's official Web site. Allows additional publications elsewhere, including a district's official Web site.

Makes this section immediately effective.

- 10** **Construction contracts.** Allows a school board to publish notice of a meeting to authorize a project labor agreement on the school district's official Web site.

Makes this section immediately effective.

- 11** **Publication.** Allows a school district to publish the substance of a summary of the education commissioner's review and comment on a project on the district's official Web site. Requires the district to make supplementary information available to the public in an electronic format or another format.

Makes this section immediately effective.

- 12** **Account transfers.** Allows a school district, on June 30 of any year, to transfer funds from one account to another account within a fund, except the debt redemption fund, as long as the transfer does not increase a state aid obligation or grant the district additional levy authority.

Makes this section immediately effective.

- 13 Approval standard.** Directs the commissioner to approve a district's request for a fund transfer if the transfer does not increase state aid obligations to the district or result in additional property tax authority for the district.
- Makes this section immediately effective.
- 14 Safe schools levy.** Strikes language requiring districts to set aside safe school levy proceeds to pay for school counselors and other school professionals and to maintain amounts expended on employer services or equivalent numbers of full-time employees.
- 15 Repayment; maturity date of certificates; interest.** (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), declares that certificates issued as taxable obligations where the interest may be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes mature within 12 months of the close of the calendar year in which they were issued and certificates issued in anticipation of receiving state aid mature within 12 months after the close of the school year in which they are issued.
- 16 Notice.** Allows certain notices related to school district elections to be posted on a district's official Web site or to be made available electronically.
- Makes this section immediately effective.
- 17 Time; publication for successive weeks.** Requires the term "successive weeks," when used in the context of required published notice, to be construed in a way that is consistent with the parameters of an electronic format.
- Makes this section immediately effective.
- 18 Reserve revenue for staff development.** (a) Allows districts and charter schools to use staff development revenue for general education purposes through fiscal year 2014.
- (b) Allows a school district on June 30, 2010, to permanently transfer any balance from the district's reserved account for staff development to its undesignated general fund balance.