

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 592

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PARSON.

Pre-filed December 1, 2015, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

4435S.02I

## AN ACT

To repeal section 171.031, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the opening date for school terms.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 171.031, RSMo, is repealed and one new section  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 171.031, to read as follows:

171.031. 1. Each school board shall prepare annually a calendar for the  
2 school term, specifying the opening date and providing a minimum term of at  
3 least one hundred seventy-four days for schools with a five-day school week or one  
4 hundred forty-two days for schools with a four-day school week, and one thousand  
5 forty-four hours of actual pupil attendance. In addition, such calendar shall  
6 include six make-up days for possible loss of attendance due to inclement weather  
7 as defined in subsection 1 of section 171.033.

8 2. Each local school district may set its opening date each year, which  
9 date shall be no earlier than ten calendar days prior to the first Monday in  
10 September. No public school district shall select an earlier start date unless, **for**  
11 **school years before school year 2017-18**, the district follows the procedure  
12 set forth in subsection 3 of this section. **The procedure set forth in**  
13 **subsection 3 of this section shall be unavailable to school districts for**  
14 **school year 2017-18 and for subsequent years.**

15 3. **For school years before school year 2017-18**, a district may set an  
16 opening date that is more than ten calendar days prior to the first Monday in  
17 September only if the local school board first gives public notice of a public  
18 meeting to discuss the proposal of opening school on a date more than ten days  
19 prior to the first Monday in September, and the local school board holds said  
20 meeting and, at the same public meeting, a majority of the board votes to allow

21 an earlier opening date. If all of the previous conditions are met, the district may  
22 set its opening date more than ten calendar days prior to the first Monday in  
23 September. The condition provided in this subsection must be satisfied by the  
24 local school board each year that the board proposes an opening date more than  
25 ten days before the first Monday in September.

26 4. If any local district violates the provisions of this section, the  
27 department of elementary and secondary education shall withhold an amount  
28 equal to one quarter of the state funding the district generated under section  
29 163.031 for each date the district was in violation of this section.

30 5. The provisions of subsections 2 to 4 of this section shall not apply to  
31 school districts in which school is in session for twelve months of each calendar  
32 year.

33 6. The state board of education may grant an exemption from this section  
34 to a school district that demonstrates highly unusual and extenuating  
35 circumstances justifying exemption from the provisions of subsections 2 to 4 of  
36 this section. Any exemption granted by the state board of education shall be  
37 valid for one academic year only.

38 7. No school day for schools with a five-day school week shall be longer  
39 than seven hours except for vocational schools which may adopt an eight-hour day  
40 in a metropolitan school district and a school district in a first class county  
41 adjacent to a city not within a county, and any school that adopts a four-day  
42 school week in accordance with section 171.029.

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