

SENATE BILL NO. 1710

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MCCREERY.

6463S.011

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapters 160 and 161, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to support for high school students' sleep requirements.

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

Section A. Chapters 160 and 161, RSMo, are amended by adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections 160.044 and 161.044, to read as follows:

160.044. 1. No high school shall begin mandated instruction for students earlier than 8:30 a.m. This requirement shall be in effect at all school districts statewide beginning with the earliest of:

- (1) The commencement of the 2027-28 school year; or**
- (2) The expiration of the school district's existing collective bargaining agreement establishing school day start times.**

2. A school district facing unique challenges as a result of the requirements of subsection 1 of this section may apply to the department of elementary and secondary education for a waiver from such requirements. The department shall establish a form that districts may use for this purpose. To be eligible for a waiver, a school district shall supply substantial evidence of significant hardship due to factors including, but not limited to, operations, funding, or pupil transportation.

18 3. School districts may coordinate with the department
19 of elementary and secondary education if they require
20 assistance with redesigning bus routes or adjusting school
21 schedules to implement the requirements of subsection 1 of
22 this section.

23 4. The department of elementary and secondary
24 education may promulgate rules to implement the provisions
25 of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that
26 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under
27 the authority delegated in this section shall become
28 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of
29 the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
30 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and
31 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
32 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective
33 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently
34 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
35 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,
36 2026, shall be invalid and void.

161.044. 1. The "Missouri Sleep and Education
2 Advisory Task Force" is hereby established within the
3 department of elementary and secondary education.

4 2. The task force shall consist of the following
5 twenty members:

6 (1) The commissioner of education or the
7 commissioner's designee;

8 (2) The director of the department of health and
9 senior services or such director's designee;

10 (3) A sleep scientist or neurologist, to be appointed
11 by the director of the department of health and senior
12 services;

- 13 (4) An individual responsible for planning and
14 organizing pupil transportation services for a school
15 district or school districts, to be appointed by the
16 commissioner of education;
- 17 (5) The following twelve individuals, to be appointed
18 by the governor from among school districts representing a
19 variety of organizational types and operational challenges:
- 20 (a) The superintendent of an urban school district;
- 21 (b) The superintendent of a seven-director school
22 district;
- 23 (c) The superintendent of a metropolitan school
24 district;
- 25 (d) A high school teacher currently employed by an
26 urban school district;
- 27 (e) A high school teacher currently employed by a
28 seven-director school district;
- 29 (f) A high school teacher currently employed by a
30 metropolitan school district;
- 31 (g) A parent of a high school student currently
32 enrolled in an urban school district;
- 33 (h) A parent of a high school student currently
34 enrolled in a seven-director school district;
- 35 (i) A parent of a high school student currently
36 enrolled in a metropolitan school district;
- 37 (j) A high school student currently enrolled in an
38 urban school district;
- 39 (k) A high school student currently enrolled in a
40 seven-director school district; and
- 41 (l) A high school student currently enrolled in a
42 metropolitan school district;
- 43 (6) A member of the senate, appointed by the president
44 pro tempore of the senate;

45 (7) A member of the senate, appointed by the senate
46 minority floor leader;

47 (8) A member of the house of representatives,
48 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

49 (9) A member of the house of representatives,
50 appointed by the house minority floor leader.

51 3. Members of the task force shall serve a four-year
52 term and may be reappointed. Any vacancy on the task force
53 shall be filled in the same manner as in the original
54 appointment.

55 4. Members of the task force shall elect a chair from
56 among the membership of the task force. The task force
57 shall meet as needed to complete its recommendations and
58 submit its report as described in subsection 5 of this
59 section. Members of the task force shall serve without
60 compensation. No school district policy or administrative
61 action shall require any employee to use personal leave or
62 incur a reduction in pay for participating on the task
63 force. No school district policy or administrative action
64 shall penalize any student for participating on the task
65 force.

66 5. The task force shall:

67 (1) Collect feedback from among the task force
68 membership and education stakeholders across the state
69 regarding best practices for school start times, taking into
70 account impacts of a later start time on student health,
71 school operations and finances, and the local community;

72 (2) Collect data from school districts across the
73 state on changes in student attendance, tardiness, grades,
74 and disciplinary outcomes before and after the
75 implementation of the provisions of section 160.044. Based

76 on this data, the task force may recommend changes to state
77 law and regulations as needed; and

78 (3) On or before December thirty-first of each year,
79 submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the
80 governor, president pro tempore of the senate, speaker of
81 the house of representatives, the joint committee on
82 education, the state board of education, and the state board
83 of health and senior services.

84 6. The department of elementary and secondary
85 education may promulgate rules to implement the provisions
86 of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that
87 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under
88 the authority delegated in this section shall become
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90 the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section
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94 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently
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