



HOUSE BILL 1035: 2020-2021 Calendar Modifications.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 16, 2020
Introduced by:	Reps. Horn, Fraley, Clemmons	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The 2nd Edition of HB 1035 would do the following:*

- *Remove restrictions on when remote instruction days can be scheduled in the 2020-2021 school year.*
- *Remove restrictions on the number of remote instruction days allowed in the 2020-2021 school year when needed to address the health and safety of students.*
- *Authorize flexibility in adopted single-track year-round calendars when needed to address the health and safety of students.*
- *Extend the use of emergency school nutrition funds to the Summer Food Services Program and authorize use of the funds through December 30, 2020.*

CURRENT LAW: Section 2.11 of S.L. 2020-3 establishes unique requirements for the 2020-2021 school calendar for public school units. These requirements include establishing a remote learning plan which will be used for 5 remote instruction days of the 2020-2021 school calendar. Public school units are not permitted to use more than 5 remote instruction days unless a state of emergency ordering school closure for more than 5 days is made during the 2020-2021 school year, however. Local school administrative units are also directed to not use remote instruction days in the first 5 days of the school year.

Section 2.11 also requires local school administrative units to meet specific start and end requirements for the 2020-2021 school year. These requirements do not apply to year-round and modified calendar schools that meet the definitions provided in Sec. 2.1 of S.L. 2020-3. To qualify as a year-round school, a school must meet one of three calendar types. Two of the types provide for multi-track year-round schools that stagger groups of students throughout the calendar year. The third type provides for a single-track year-round school that rotates 45 days of instruction with 15 days of vacation throughout the calendar year.

Sec. 3.3(6) of S.L. 2020-2 provides \$75 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds to the Department of Public Instruction for school nutrition services provided by public school units in response to COVID-19. Those funds are provided for use from March 16, 2020 through the end of the 2019-2020 school year (June 30, 2020).

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of HB 1035 would make the following changes:

- Remove the prohibition on remote instruction days in the first 5 instructional days for local school administrative units.

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- Replace the authorization to use additional remote instruction days during a state of emergency order closing schools with authorization for the governing body of a public school unit to use additional remote instruction days if the body determines it is needed to promote the health and safety of students. Public school units would be required to comply with all COVID-19 guidance from the State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction, and Department of Health and Human Services.
- Modify the definition of year-round schools to be calendars adopted prior to March 1, 2020, and modify the definition of single-track year-round schools to be those providing an average of between 44 and 46 instructional days followed by an average of 15-20 vacation days throughout the calendar year. Authorize modification of single-track year-round school calendars in a way that no longer meets that definition if the local board determines the modification is needed for student health and safety and the altered calendar otherwise meets requirements for year-round schools.

Section 2 of the bill would make the following changes to the Coronavirus Relief Funds provided for school nutrition:

- Clarify the funds are for emergency school nutrition services.
- Authorize use of the funds for the Summer Food Service Program.
- Extend the time period for use of the funds to December 30, 2020.

EFFECTIVE DATE: HB 1035 would become effective when it becomes law.