

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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HOUSE DRH80019-LE-18A (01/05)

Short Title: Local Flexibility Re: School Calendar.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Lucas.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PERMIT LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO SET SCHOOL
3 CALENDARS FOR THEIR LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-84.2(d) reads as rewritten:

6 "(d) Opening and Closing Dates. – Local boards of education shall determine the dates
7 of opening and closing the public schools under subdivision (a)(1) of this section. Except for
8 year-round schools, the opening date for students shall not be before August 15. First semester
9 examinations shall be given before winter break. August 25, and the closing date for students
10 shall not be after June 10. On a showing of good cause, the State Board of Education may
11 waive this requirement to the extent that school calendars are able to provide sufficient days to
12 accommodate anticipated makeup days due to school closings. A local board may revise the
13 scheduled closing date if necessary in order to comply with the minimum requirements for
14 instructional days or instructional time. For purposes of this subsection, the term "good cause"
15 means either that:

- 16 (1) ~~schools in any local school administrative unit in a county have been closed~~
17 ~~eight days per year during any four of the last 10 years because of severe~~
18 ~~weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures, or other emergency~~
19 ~~situations; or~~
20 (2) ~~schools in any local school administrative unit in a county have been closed~~
21 ~~for all or part of eight days per year during any four of the last 10 years~~
22 ~~because of severe weather conditions. For purposes of this subdivision, a~~
23 ~~school shall be deemed to be closed for part of a day if it is closed for two or~~
24 ~~more hours.~~

25 ~~The State Board also may waive this requirement for an educational purpose. The term~~
26 ~~"educational purpose" means a local school administrative unit establishes a need to adopt a~~
27 ~~different calendar for (i) a specific school to accommodate a special program offered generally~~
28 ~~to the student body of that school, (ii) a school that primarily serves a special population of~~
29 ~~students, or (iii) a defined program within a school. The State Board may grant the waiver for~~
30 ~~an educational purpose for that specific school or defined program to the extent that the State~~
31 ~~Board finds that the educational purpose is reasonable, the accommodation is necessary to~~
32 ~~accomplish the educational purpose, and the request is not an attempt to circumvent the~~
33 ~~opening and closing dates set forth in this subsection. The waiver requests for educational~~
34 ~~purposes shall not be used to accommodate system wide class scheduling preferences.~~



1 ~~The required opening and closing dates under this subsection shall not apply to any school~~
2 ~~that a local board designated as having a modified calendar for the 2003-2004 school year or to~~
3 ~~any school that was part of a planned program in the 2003-2004 school year for a system of~~
4 ~~modified calendar schools, so long as the school operates under a modified calendar."~~

5 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
6 the 2011-2012 school year.