

By: King of Hemphill

H.B. No. 2610

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the minimum number of minutes of instruction for students to be provided by public school districts and the scheduling of the last day of school for students by public school districts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 25.081, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 25.081. OPERATION OF SCHOOLS. (a) Except as authorized under Subsection (b) of this section, Section 25.084, or Section 29.0821, for each school year each school district must operate so that the district provides for at least 75,600 minutes ~~[180 days]~~ of instruction, including intermissions and recesses, for students.

(b) The commissioner may approve the instruction of students for fewer than the number of minutes ~~[days]~~ required under Subsection (a) if disaster, flood, extreme weather conditions, fuel curtailment, or another calamity causes the closing of schools.

(c) If the commissioner does not approve reduced instruction time under Subsection (b), a school district may add additional minutes to the end of the district's normal school hours as necessary to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by disaster, flood, extreme weather conditions, fuel curtailment, or another calamity.

1        (d) The commissioner may adopt rules for the application, on  
2 the basis of the minimum minutes of instruction required by  
3 Subsection (a), of any provision of this title that refers to a  
4 minimum number of days of instruction under this section.

5        SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 25.0812 to read as follows:

7        Sec. 25.0812. LAST DAY OF SCHOOL. (a) Except as provided  
8 by Subsection (b), a school district may not schedule the last day  
9 of school for students for a school year before May 15.

10       (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a school district that  
11 does not offer each grade level from kindergarten through grade 12  
12 and whose prospective or former students generally attend school in  
13 another state for the grade levels the district does not offer may  
14 schedule the last day of school on any date permitted under  
15 Subsection (a) or the law of the other state.

16        SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016  
17 school year.

18        SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.