

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1578

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the first and last days of instruction and the number of hours in a school day at a public school.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25.0811(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by this section, a school district may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the Tuesday after Labor Day [~~the fourth Monday in August~~]. A school district may:

(1) begin instruction for students for a school year before the Tuesday after Labor Day [~~the fourth Monday in August~~] if the district operates a year-round system under Section 25.084; or

(2) begin instruction for students for a school year on or after the first Monday in August at a campus or at not more than 20 percent of the campuses in the district if:

(A) the district has a student enrollment of 190,000 or more;

(B) the district at the beginning of the school year provides, financed with local funds, days of instruction for students at the campus or at each of the multiple campuses, in addition to the minimum number of days of instruction required under Section 25.081;

(C) the campus or each of the multiple campuses

1 is [~~are~~] undergoing comprehensive reform, as determined by the  
2 board of trustees of the district; and

3 (D) a majority of the students at the campus or at  
4 each of the multiple campuses are educationally disadvantaged.

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 after the Friday preceding  
10 Memorial Day.

11 (b) A school district may schedule the last day of school  
12 for students for a school year after the Friday preceding Memorial  
13 Day if the district operates a year-round system under Section  
14 25.084.

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

21 SECTION 3. Section 25.082(a), Education Code, is amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 (a) A school day shall be at least 7.5 [~~seven~~] hours each  
24 day, including intermissions and recesses.

25 SECTION 4. Section 25.084(a), Education Code, is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 (a) A school district may operate its schools year-round on

1 either a single-track or a multitrack calendar. If a school  
2 district adopts a year-round system, the district may modify:

3 (1) the number of contract days of employees and the  
4 number of days of operation, including any time required for staff  
5 development, planning and preparation, and continuing education,  
6 otherwise required by law;

7 (2) testing dates, data reporting, and related  
8 matters;

9 (3) the date of the first day of instruction of the  
10 school year under Section [25.0811](#) and the date of the last day of  
11 school for a school year under Section 25.0812 for a school that was  
12 operating year-round for the 2014-2015 [~~2000-2001~~] school year; and

13 (4) a student's eligibility to participate in  
14 extracurricular activities when the student's calendar track is not  
15 in session.

16 SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016  
17 school year.

18 SECTION 6. 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.