

Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine

HOUSE BILL NO. 1490
(Representatives D. Johnson, Delmore, Monson, Nowatzki)
(Senators Tomac, Wanzek)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-40.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the closure of schools in weather emergencies; to amend and reenact section 15-47-33 of the North Dakota Century Code, or in the alternative to amend and reenact section 15.1-06-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to length of the school year; and to repeal section 15-40.1-09.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the closure of schools due to emergencies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15-40.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Weather or other emergency conditions - Closure of schools - Foundation aid. If because of severe weather or other emergency conditions a school or school district remains closed or provides less than a full day of instruction, the school or school district shall make every effort to reschedule classes so that students receive at least one hundred seventy-three full days of instruction. Any school or school district for which the rescheduling of classes would create undue hardship may request that, for purposes of foundation aid, the governor waive the rescheduling in whole or in part. The governor may not grant a waiver for less than a full day of instruction.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. If House Bill No. 1034 does not become effective, section 15-47-33 of the 1997 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15-47-33. Length of elementary and secondary school year term.

1. All elementary and secondary schools in this state shall provide for a school term of at least one hundred eighty days apportioned as follows:
 - a. One hundred seventy-three full days of instruction;
 - b. Three holidays listed in subsections 2 through 10 of section 15-38-04.1 selected by the school board in consultation with district teachers;
 - c. Two days for the attendance of teachers at the North Dakota education association instructional conference; and
 - d. Up to two full days during which parent-teacher conferences are held, or which are deemed by the school board to be compensatory time for parent-teacher conferences held outside normal school hours.
2. A full day of instruction:
 - a. Consists of at least five and one-half hours ~~of instruction time~~ for elementary students, during which time the students are required to be in attendance for the purpose of receiving curricular instruction; and
 - b. Consists of at least six hours ~~of instruction time~~ for high school students, during which time the students are required to be in attendance for the purpose of receiving curricular instruction.

3. If a school's calendar provides for an extension of each schoolday beyond the statutorily required minimum number of hours, and if the extensions when aggregated over an entire school year amount to more than eighty-four hours of additional classroom instruction during the school year, the school is exempt from having to make up six hours of instruction time lost as a result of weather-related closure. In order to make up lost classroom instruction time beyond the six hours, the school must extend its normal school calendar day by at least thirty minutes.
4. A school that does not qualify under the provisions of subsection 3 must extend its normal schoolday by at least thirty minutes to make up classroom instruction time lost as a result of weather-related closure.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-06-04 of the North Dakota Century Code as created by House Bill No. 1034, as approved by the fifty-sixth legislative assembly, is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-06-04. School calendar - Length.

1. During each school year, a school district shall provide for a school calendar of at least one hundred eighty days, apportioned as follows:
 - a. One hundred seventy-three full days of instruction;
 - b. Three holidays listed in subdivisions b through j of subsection 1 of section 15.1-06-02 and selected by the school board in consultation with district teachers;
 - c. Two days for the attendance of teachers at the North Dakota education association instructional conference; and
 - d. Up to two full days during which parent-teacher conferences are held or which are deemed by the school board to be compensatory time for parent-teacher conferences held outside regular school hours.
2. A full day of instruction consists of:
 - a. At least five and one-half hours of instruction time for elementary students, during which time the students are required to be in attendance for the purpose of receiving curricular instruction; and
 - b. At least six hours of instruction time for high school students, during which time the students are required to be in attendance for the purpose of receiving curricular instruction.
3. If a school's calendar provides for an extension of each schoolday beyond the statutorily required minimum number of hours, and if the extensions when aggregated over an entire school year amount to more than eighty-four hours of additional classroom instruction during the school year, the school is exempt from having to make up six hours of instruction time lost as a result of weather-related closure. In order to make up lost classroom instruction time beyond the six hours, the school must extend its normal school calendar day by at least thirty minutes.
4. A school that does not qualify under the provisions of subsection 3 must extend its normal schoolday by at least thirty minutes to make up classroom instruction time lost as a result of weather-related closure.

SECTION 4. REPEAL. Section 15-40.1-09.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is repealed.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1490.

House Vote: Yeas 93 Nays 3 Absent 2

Senate Vote: Yeas 45 Nays 0 Absent 4

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1999,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State