



HR0244 Enrolled

LRB101 11802 MST 58599 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION 244

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois School Code provides that each school
3 board is required to annually prepare a calendar for each
4 school term that specifies both the opening and closing dates
5 of the term; and

6 WHEREAS, A school district's calendar must provide for a
7 minimum of at least 185 days that generally includes five
8 emergency days and four teacher institute days in order to
9 ensure 176 days of actual pupil attendance; and

10 WHEREAS, While the School Code does not govern when a
11 school term should begin or end, schools are increasingly
12 starting their school year in mid-August; and

13 WHEREAS, Traditionally, especially prior to the mid-1990s,
14 schools would begin their school term after Labor Day,
15 according to a 2015 CNN article, "Back to school: Why August is
16 the new September"; and

17 WHEREAS, Some states, including Michigan and Maryland,
18 have implemented prohibitions on school terms beginning before
19 Labor Day in an effort to boost their tourism industries; and

20 WHEREAS, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan recently signed an
21 executive order prohibiting schools from commencing their

1 school term prior to Labor Day unless the school district has
2 received a waiver; and

3 WHEREAS, Research shows that the date upon which a school
4 term begins does not necessarily impact a student's academic
5 success; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we urge the Illinois State Board of Education to study the
9 impact of beginning a school term during various points
10 throughout August as compared to after Labor Day; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education submit a report
13 to the General Assembly by December 31, 2019 including the
14 following information:

15 (1) A summary of current school term start dates in
16 school districts throughout Illinois; and

17 (2) Laws in other states that govern when a school term
18 may commence; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 delivered to the State Superintendent of Education.