



HR0244

LRB101 11802 MST 58599 r

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan recently signed an

1 executive order prohibiting schools from commencing their
2 school term prior to Labor Day unless the school district has
3 received a waiver; and

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

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

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

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

18 (2) Laws in other states that govern when a school term
19 may commence; and

20 (3) The effects that beginning a school term at various

1 points in August, as compared to after Labor Day, would
2 have on school district budgets, administrators, teachers,
3 and students; and be it further

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