

Legislative Analysis



REPEAL INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR REQUIREMENTS

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House Bill 4199 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Pamela Hornberger
Committee: Education
Complete to 9-27-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4199 would repeal two sections of the Revised School Code and the State School Aid Act that prohibit the school year from starting before Labor Day and that provide a process for getting a waiver from that prohibition. The bill also would make related amendments to the Revised School Code.

Section 1284b of the Revised School Code currently prohibits the instructional calendar year from beginning before Labor Day unless the school district, intermediate school district (ISD), or public school academy (PSA) is granted a waiver for a qualifying reason by the state superintendent of public instruction.

Section 160 of the State School Aid Act now requires a district or ISD requesting a Labor Day waiver to use a portion of its funding under the act to conduct a joint public hearing with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). That hearing must be held before a waiver can be granted.

The bill would repeal both of the above sections, effectively removing the prohibition on beginning the school year before Labor Day. The bill also would amend section 1284a of the Revised School Code to remove provisions that now require the common school calendar to comply with section 1284b and provide that this requirement does not apply to a district or ISD until an existing collective bargaining agreement expires.

The bill would take effect 90 days after its enactment.

MCL 380.1284a and MCL 388.1760 and 380.1284b (repealed)

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 4199 is a reintroduction of HBs 4368 and 4369 of the 2019-20 legislative session.¹ At that time, the provisions repealing the sections of the Revised School Code and State School Aid Act were in separate bills. In House Bill 4199, they are combined into a single bill. HBs 4368 and 4369 were referred from the House Education committee and considered by the House Ways and Means committee.

¹ House Fiscal Agency analysis of HBs 4368 and 4369: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2019-2020/billanalysis/House/pdf/2019-HLA-4368-814399B4.pdf>

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state, but there could be an indeterminate, but likely minimal, impact for districts, ISDs, and PSAs. Districts, ISDs, and PSAs that submit a waiver to MDE to begin before Labor Day and hold a hearing would realize reduced administrative costs due to the removal of those requirements.

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