

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

As Engrossed: H1/15/25

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1051

5 By: Representative Andrews  
6 By: Senator B. Davis  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL START DATE  
10 REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

### Subtitle

14 TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL START DATE  
15 REQUIREMENTS.  
16

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-106(a), concerning the first day of  
20 the school year for public schools, is amended to read as follows:

21 (a)(1)(A) Each school year, each public school district board of  
22 directors or governing entity of an open-enrollment public charter school  
23 shall establish by policy the first day of the school year for student  
24 attendance in public elementary and secondary schools ~~shall be~~

25 ~~(i) On or after the Monday of the week in which~~  
26 ~~August 19 falls;~~

27 ~~(ii) Not earlier than August 14; and~~

28 ~~(iii) Not later than August 26.~~

29 (B) ~~The date for beginning the school year shall be~~  
30 ~~determined by the board of directors of each school district~~ The first day  
31 of the school year for student attendance established under subdivision  
32 (a)(1)(A) of this section shall comply with the number of student-teacher  
33 interaction days or hours required by the Standards for Accreditation of  
34 Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts established by the State Board  
35 of Education.

36 ~~(C)(2)~~ Labor Day shall be celebrated as a school holiday in all



1 the school districts of the state, and school shall not be held on that date.  
2 ~~(D)~~(3) As used in this section, "week" means a seven-day period  
3 that begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday.

4 ~~(2) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education may grant~~  
5 ~~a school district a waiver to begin school on an earlier or a later date if~~  
6 ~~the division determines that there exists a material and substantial reason~~  
7 ~~for the school district to begin school on an earlier or a later date due to~~  
8 ~~very exceptional or emergency circumstances such as a contagious disease~~  
9 ~~outbreak, inclement weather, or other acts of God.~~

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11 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
12 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that public schools need ample time  
13 to select and announce the school calendar for the upcoming school year,  
14 which requires meetings and determinations of certain dates; that for  
15 purposes of teacher and administrator contracts, establishing the school  
16 calendar is vital; and that this act is immediately necessary because public  
17 schools need to know as soon as possible what the statutory requirements are  
18 with respect to establishing the school calendars for the upcoming school  
19 year. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being  
20 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and  
21 safety shall become effective on:

22 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

23 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
24 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
25 bill; or

26 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
27 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto."

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30 /s/Andrews  
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