

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1051

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

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL START DATE
10 REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13 TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL START DATE
14 REQUIREMENTS.
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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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