

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

As Engrossed: H4/2/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1940

5 By: Representatives Walker, J. Mayberry, S. Berry, Cozart, Eaton, Hall, Hollowell, McClure, Milligan,
6 K. Moore, Painter, Pearce, Puryear, J. Richardson, Schulz, Vaught, Wooten
7 *By: Senator Crowell*
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT CONCERNING A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT
11 IMPLEMENTS A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL
12 WITHIN ITS DISTRICT; TO ESTABLISH THE REQUIREMENTS
13 FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT INITIATES AND
14 MAINTAINS A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK; TO DECLARE AN
15 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
16
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Subtitle

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19 TO ESTABLISH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A
20 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT INITIATES
21 AND MAINTAINS A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK;
22 AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-10-117 is amended to read as follows:

27 6-10-117. Four-day school week – Definition.

28 (a)(1) It is found and determined by the General Assembly that
29 granting ~~local~~ public school districts greater flexibility in scheduling
30 instructional time can reap educational benefits for the students and
31 financial rewards for the public school district.

32 (2) It is the intent of this section to authorize ~~local~~ public
33 school districts to initiate and maintain public school educational programs
34 on a four-day school-week basis, ~~so long as if~~ if planned instructional time ~~is~~
35 ~~in accord with requirements established by~~ meets the State Board of Education
36 requirements promulgated under subsection (d) of this section.



1 (b) As used in this section, “four-day school week” means an
2 educational program in which all students attend school for four (4) days a
3 week but no fewer than the total number of hours required by the Standards
4 for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts in a five-
5 day school week.

6 (c)(1) The board of directors of ~~any a public~~ a public school district ~~is~~
7 ~~authorized to~~ may initiate and maintain a four-day school week in any or all
8 of the public schools in the public school district.

9 (2) The state board and the Department of Education shall not
10 have the authority to approve or deny the decision of a public school
11 district board of directors to initiate and maintain a four-day school week
12 in any or all of its public schools under subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

13 (d)(1) ~~The State Board of Education~~ state board shall establish
14 appropriate standards, guidelines, and rules for only the following:

15 ~~(A)(i) The determination of average daily membership of school districts and~~
16 ~~for the distribution of state aid to each local public school district that~~
17 ~~elects to operate any or all of the public schools of its school district on~~
18 ~~a four-day school-week basis, to provide the public school district with an~~
19 ~~equitable share of state aid funds.~~

20 (ii) The state aid funds under subdivision
21 (d)(1)(A)(i) of this section that are designated to equate a four-day school-
22 week operation by the school district to ensure the educational opportunities
23 provided by a public school district offering a four-day school week are
24 equivalent to the educational opportunities provided by a public school
25 district offering a five-day school week or a public school that follows a
26 traditional calendar;

27 (B) The requirement that each public school district that
28 initiates and maintains a four-day school week for any or all of its public
29 schools under this section shall:

30 (i)(a) Average six (6) hours of instruction per
31 school day and thirty (30) hours of instruction per school week.

32 (b) The hourly requirements under subdivision
33 (d)(1)(B)(i)(a) of this section may be met with four (4) seven-and-one-half-
34 hour school instructional days.

35 (c) A public school district that initiates
36 and maintains a four-day school week in a public school that provides

1 instruction to students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall meet the
2 clock-hour equivalency of one hundred twenty (120) clock hours for a Carnegie
3 unit;

4 (ii)(a) Provide documentation to the Division of
5 Elementary and Secondary Education to determine the success of the
6 educational program.

7 (b) Assessment measures utilized by the
8 division under subdivision (d)(1)(B)(ii)(a) of this section shall include
9 without limitation state-approved criterion-referenced tests and other
10 assessment instruments required or approved by the division; and

11 (iii) Include the four-day school week on the agenda
12 for the public school district's required annual report to the public to
13 determine local support for and provide for continual community input into
14 the success and continuation of four-day school weeks; and

15 (C) The forfeiture of the ability to initiate and maintain
16 a four-day school week under this section if a public school district:

17 (i) Is classified by the state board as in need of
18 Level 5 – Intensive support; and

19 (ii) Demonstrates persistent underperformance, as
20 defined by state benchmarks, on the state-approved criterion-referenced test
21 and other assessment instruments required or approved by the division.

22 (2) ~~Provided, however, that a~~ A public school district shall not
23 receive any more state financial aid for offering a four-day school week of
24 instruction than it would have received for offering a five-day school week
25 of instruction.

26 (3) The state board and the department shall not promulgate
27 rules regarding public school districts that initiate and maintain a four-day
28 school week for any or all of its public schools that are in addition to the
29 requirements under this subsection (d).

30 (4) A public school district that initiates and maintains a
31 four-day school week for any or all of its public schools under this section
32 shall:

33 (A) Demonstrate compliance with the requirements under
34 subdivision (d)(1) of this section through a state-approved electronic
35 application; and

36 (B) Not be required to submit additional reports or

1 demonstrations of compliance with the requirements under subdivision (d)(1)
2 of this section to the state board or division.

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4 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
5 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that school districts must
6 determine and publish their school calendars in advance of the upcoming 2025-
7 2026 school year; that school districts must have their school calendars
8 established in order to prepare appropriate staffing, operational, and
9 financial needs; that parents, students, staff members, and others associated
10 with school districts must know in advance of the upcoming school year what
11 the school calendar will be in order to make necessary arrangements; and that
12 this act is immediately necessary to ensure school districts have the
13 required information to arrange for and provide constitutionally mandated
14 education to enrolled students. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist,
15 and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public
16 peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

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

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

21 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
22 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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24 /s/Walker
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