By Senator Saunders

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the starting date for public schools; amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, prohibiting public schools from starting instruction before August 15; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (4) of section 1001.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.—The district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all powers and perform all duties listed below:

- (4) ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OPERATION OF SCHOOLS.—Adopt and provide for the execution of plans for the establishment, organization, and operation of the schools of the district, including, but not limited to, the following:
- (f) Opening and closing of schools; fixing uniform date.—Adopt policies for the opening and closing of schools and fix uniform dates; however, beginning with the 2008-2009 2007-2008 school year, the opening date for schools in the district may not be earlier than August 15 14 days before Labor Day each year.
 - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.