

By Senator Posey

24-02674-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the opening of public K through 12
3 schools; amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; providing exceptions
4 to a provision prohibiting a public school from opening
5 earlier than 14 days before Labor Day; providing
6 requirements for the district school board; providing an
7 exception for a school operating on a year-round or
8 extended calendar; providing an effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (4) of section
13 1001.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14 1001.42 Powers and duties of district school board.--The
15 district school board, acting as a board, shall exercise all
16 powers and perform all duties listed below:

17 (4) ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OPERATION OF
18 SCHOOLS.--Adopt and provide for the execution of plans for the
19 establishment, organization, and operation of the schools of the
20 district, including, but not limited to, the following:

21 (f) Opening and closing of schools; fixing uniform
22 date.--Adopt policies for the opening and closing of schools and
23 fix uniform dates. ~~;~~ ~~however,~~ Beginning with the 2007-2008 school
24 year except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the opening
25 date for schools in the district may not be earlier than 14 days
26 before Labor Day each year.

27 1. A district school board may establish an opening date
28 earlier than 14 days before Labor Day if the school board:

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29 a. Holds at least three public hearings concerning the
30 earlier opening date at different geographic locations throughout
31 the school district;

32 b. Surveys the parents of all public school students
33 enrolled within the district; and

34 c. Approves the earlier opening date by a unanimous vote.

35 2. A school that operates under a year-round school year or
36 an extended calendar shall open and close pursuant to district
37 school board policy and may establish an opening date that is
38 earlier than 14 days before Labor Day.

39 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.