



490678

576-02346-15

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Education)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the opening and closing of public schools; amending s. 1001.42, F.S.; revising a requirement for the uniform opening date of public schools; amending s. 1003.621, F.S.; providing that academically high-performing school districts must comply with provisions relating to the uniform opening date of public schools; providing an exception for certain school districts for a certain timeframe; 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 2015-2016 ~~2007-2008~~ school year and each school year thereafter, the opening date for schools in the district may not be earlier than the third



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28 Monday in August ~~14 days before Labor Day each year.~~

29       Section 2. Present paragraph (k) of subsection (2) of  
30 section 1003.621, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph  
31 (1), and a new paragraph (k) is added to that subsection, to  
32 read:

33       1003.621 Academically high-performing school districts.—It  
34 is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and reward school  
35 districts that demonstrate the ability to consistently maintain  
36 or improve their high-performing status. The purpose of this  
37 section is to provide high-performing school districts with  
38 flexibility in meeting the specific requirements in statute and  
39 rules of the State Board of Education.

40       (2) COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTES AND RULES.—Each academically  
41 high-performing school district shall comply with all of the  
42 provisions in chapters 1000-1013, and rules of the State Board  
43 of Education which implement these provisions, pertaining to the  
44 following:

45       (k) Section 1001.42(4)(f), relating to the uniform opening  
46 date for public schools. However, an academically high-  
47 performing school district whose calendar for the 2015-2016  
48 school year was approved by the district school board before May  
49 1, 2015, may waive compliance with s. 1001.42(4)(f) for the  
50 2015-2016 school year.

51       Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.