



OEA Legislative Watch

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Do you know that the political process affects virtually everything in your school day?

Take action —
Become an OEA
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Questions?

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House Bill 191 Proposes Changes to School Year

House Bill 191 (Hayes and Patmon) would change the school year so that it would be based solely on hours instead of days and hours, would prohibit a school from opening prior to Labor Day without a waiver from the Ohio Department of Education, and would eliminate calamity days.

The current version of the bill includes a provision that switches the minimum school year for school districts and nonpublic schools from days and hours to hours:

- 182 days to 455 hours for half-day Kindergarten
- 182 days to 910 hours for full-day Kindergarten and grades 1-6
- 182 days to 1,001 hours for grades 7-12
- Defines a school week generally as five days for school districts.

In order to satisfy the minimum hourly requirements:

- A school may count up to 10 hours per year for grades K through 6, and up to 11 hours per year for grades 7 through 12, when classes are dismissed for individualized parent-teacher conferences and reporting periods.
- A school may count up to 10 hours per year in grades K through 6, and 11 hours in grades 7 through 12, when the schools are closed for teacher professional meetings.
- For students in grades Kindergarten through 6, a school may count morning and afternoon recess periods of not more than 15 minutes each.

Calamity Days:

- Eliminates calamity days and allows school districts to use any time over the minimum hour requirements (above) to be used for time missed due to calamity.
- Unlike current law, a school is not permitted to count any "calamity" days or hours (including two-hour delays or early dismissals) toward its minimum hourly requirement. HB 191 allows for public schools to make up some calamity time (3-days, 24 hours) via online lessons or paper "blizzard bags." This concept was passed in House Bill 153, the most recent budget bill.

Labor Day:

- The bill prohibits schools operated by school districts, charter schools and STEM schools from opening for instruction earlier than Labor Day.
- Allows for a school district to opt-out of this mandate by having a local school board hold a public hearing, pass a resolution and submit a copy to the Ohio Department of Education to receive a waiver.

Collective Bargaining:

- Provides that the changes within HB 191 to the required minimum school year do not apply to any collective bargaining agreement executed prior to the bill's effective date of July 1, 2013.
- Stipulates that any collective bargaining agreement executed or renewed after the bill's effective date must comply with the changes.

OEA is opposed to HB 191. OEA's primary concerns include the possibility of school district reductions to current levels of instructional time, post-Labor Day start time, different day to hour calculations for counting professional development and "blizzard bags" toward minimum hourly requirements, and transportation issues. The bill is currently pending in the House Education Committee.