

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: SB779 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Schools Begin After Labor Day

SPONSOR(S): Senators Dannelly; Holloman, and Lucas

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes ()	No (X)	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2003-04</u>	<u>FY 2004-05</u>	<u>FY 2005-06</u>	<u>FY 2006-07</u>	<u>FY 2007-08</u>
REVENUES	None				
EXPENDITURES	None				
POSITIONS:	N/A				
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Local Boards of Education					
EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill is effective when it becomes law.					

BILL SUMMARY: The bill amends current public schools statute¹ by adding a sentence requiring that “the first instructional day for schools other than year-round schools shall be after Labor Day.” Current statute allows local boards of education flexibility in determining the first instructional day for schools.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: Removing local boards’ flexibility to determine the first instructional day for schools within their purview will have an effect on the school calendar. As the boards will retain current flexibility to set the remainder of the school calendar, however, the restriction on start date should not impair a board’s ability to set a calendar that both meets statutory requirements and allows delivery of educational services comparable to those provided when the start date was not restricted. As the bill does not place on the local boards any additional requirements to provide either new or modified services, the boards should not incur any additional expenses in implementing the later school start date.

The effective date of the bill may present a planning challenge for local boards as it will require them to revise already adopted 2003-04 school year calendars to incorporate the post-Labor Day start date. If passage and signing of this bill were to come in late May of 2003 or after the end of school year, then a successful implementation by local boards in 2003-04 is likely impossible.

¹ G.S. 115C-84.2(d)

Based on policies that require input from parents, teachers, and other stakeholders in development of the school calendar, a revision to the existing calendar will likely entail scheduling of numerous meetings, public and otherwise, to develop consensus on a revised plan. While this process may be a source of significant inconvenience, however, it should impose no additional fiscal burden on the schools.

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Public Instruction

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: The bill also makes a clarifying technical correction to one of the internal references contained in G.S. 115-84.2. The technical correction has no bearing on the bill's fiscal impact, or lack thereof.

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DATE: April 22, 2003



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