

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2007

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 359 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Restore Flexibility to the School Calendar.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Lucas and Bell

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes ()	No ()	No Estimate Available (X)		
	<u>FY 2007-08</u>	<u>FY 2008-09</u>	<u>FY 2009-10</u>	<u>FY 2010-11</u>	<u>FY 2011-12</u>
REVENUES:					
LOCAL EXPENDITURES:					
POSITIONS (cumulative):					
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: Local School Administrative Units (local unit), State Board of Education (State Board)					
EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.					

BILL SUMMARY:

Current law under GS 115C-84.2(d) sets a requirement that, except for year-round schools, the opening date for students may not be before August 25 and the closing date for students not after June 10. The State Board may waive the opening and closing dates upon a showing of good cause or for an educational purpose. The bill adds four additional educational purposes to the statute: (1) to align the system calendar with a local university or community college, (2) to adjust the examination schedule systemwide to benefit students or accommodate specified examinations, (3) to accommodate block schedules systemwide, and (4) to handle inclement weather or other emergency situations on a systemwide basis. Applies beginning with the 2007-08 school year.

Source: Bill Digest H.B. 359 (02/22/0200).

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Increased Opportunities for Waivers

The bill expands the list of educational purposes for which the State Board may waive, upon local unit petition, the statutory opening and closing dates for the public school year. The bill does not affect the parameters of the school calendar or requirements for how teachers and other public school personnel are to be paid.

Possible Impact on Utility Costs

By expanding the list of educational purposes for which the State Board may waive the statutory opening and closing dates for the public school year, the bill creates the possibility that more schools will start their school year earlier in August. Schools that open earlier will operate on more late summer days when temperatures are high and air conditioning systems often must run constantly. As a result, units that request and receive waivers from the calendar requirements may incur higher total annual costs for electricity. Since the bill is permissive, one cannot determine at this time how many local units will be granted waivers and will start school earlier. If a significant number of local units request and receive waivers and start school earlier, total local expenditures for electricity (a local financial responsibility) may increase. The bill will not have any effect on State expenditures.

SOURCES OF DATA: NC General Statute, Fiscal Note for HB 1464 (2004 Session of the 2003-04 General Assembly)

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION: (919) 733-4910

PREPARED BY: Adam Levinson

APPROVED BY: Lynn Muchmore, Director
Fiscal Research Division

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