



HR1058

LRB100 21818 MST 39546 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Illinois School Code provides that each school board is required to annually prepare a calendar for each school term that specifies both the opening and closing dates of the term; and

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WHEREAS, A school district's calendar must provide for a minimum of at least 185 days that generally includes five emergency days and four teacher institute days in order to ensure 176 days of actual pupil attendance; and

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WHEREAS, While the School Code does not govern when a school term should begin or end, schools are increasingly starting their school year in mid-August; and

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WHEREAS, Traditionally, especially prior to the mid-1990s, schools would begin their school term after Labor Day, according to a 2015 CNN article, "Back to school: Why August is the new September"; and

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WHEREAS, Some states, including Michigan and Maryland, have implemented prohibitions on school terms beginning before Labor Day in an effort to boost their tourism industries; and

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WHEREAS, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan recently signed an

1 executive order prohibiting schools from commencing their
2 school term prior to Labor Day unless the school district has
3 received a waiver; and

4 WHEREAS, Research shows that the date upon which a school
5 term begins does not necessarily impact a student's academic
6 success; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
9 urge the Illinois State Board of Education to study the impact
10 of beginning a school term during various points throughout
11 August as compared to after Labor Day; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education submit a report
13 to the General Assembly by December 31, 2018 including the
14 following information and recommendations:

15 (1) A summary of current school term start dates in
16 school districts throughout Illinois;

17 (2) Laws in other states that govern when a school term
18 may commence; and

19 (3) The effects that beginning a school term at various
20 points in August, as compared to after Labor Day, would

1 have on school district budgets, administrators, teachers,
2 and students; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 delivered to State Superintendent of Education Dr. Tony Smith.