

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 164
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/29/15

Short Title: School Calendar Flexibility.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 9, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY TO LOCAL BOARDS OF
3 EDUCATION IN ADOPTING THEIR SCHOOL CALENDARS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-84.2(a)(1) reads as rewritten:

6 "(1) A minimum of ~~185 days or~~ 1,025 hours of instruction covering at least nine
7 calendar months. The local board shall designate when the instructional days
8 shall occur. The number of instructional hours in an instructional day may
9 vary according to local board policy and does not have to be uniform among
10 the schools in the administrative unit. Local boards may approve school
11 improvement plans that include days with varying amounts of instructional
12 time-time, including varying number of instructional hours in instructional
13 days occurring in different semesters of the school year, and may vary the
14 number of days per instructional semester if hours of instruction remain
15 equivalent between semesters. If school is closed early due to inclement
16 weather, the day and the scheduled amount of instructional hours may count
17 towards the required minimum to the extent allowed by State Board policy.
18 The school calendar shall include a plan for making up days and
19 instructional hours missed when schools are not opened due to inclement
20 weather. If a local board adopts a school calendar of less than 185 days of
21 instruction, teachers employed for a 10-month term who work or use annual
22 leave or sick leave for the designated instructional days are deemed to have
23 been employed the equivalent of 185 days of instruction and shall be
24 compensated as if they had worked those days. Annual leave, sick leave,
25 workdays, holidays, salary, and longevity for teachers who are employed at
26 schools with instructional calendars of less than 185 days shall be equivalent
27 to those of other teachers employed for the same number of months,
28 respectively."

29 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-174.12(4) reads as rewritten:

30 "(4) All annual assessments of student achievement adopted by the State Board
31 of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(1) and (3) and all final exams
32 for courses shall be administered within the final 10 instructional days of the
33 school year for year-long courses and within the final five instructional days
34 of the semester for semester courses. Exceptions shall be permitted to
35 accommodate a student's individualized education program and section 504
36 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plans and for the administration of final exams for courses



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1 with national or international curricula required to be held at designated
2 times. A local board of education that has implemented a school calendar
3 that concludes the fall semester prior to December 31 shall be permitted to
4 administer assessments prior to the conclusion of that semester."

5 **SECTION 3.** The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall study
6 local school administrative units that have successfully used calendar flexibility under
7 G.S. 115C-84.2 to hold semester exams prior to December 31 and shall report to the 2016
8 Regular Session of the 2015 General Assembly on its findings and recommendations.

9 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
10 the 2015-2016 school year.