

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Allowing the Milaca School District to Begin the School Year Before Labor Day

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Overview

A general statutory provision (Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 120A.40) prohibits school districts from beginning the school year before September 1; before 1998 the provision prohibited districts from starting before Labor Day. The Legislature adopted the "Labor Day" start date to accommodate the state's resort industry and families taking end-of-summer vacations. In 1997, the Legislature adopted a two-year exemption from this prohibition for the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 school years only. The exemption allows districts to begin the instructional portion of the school year on the Wednesday, Thursday or Friday before Labor Day. Past kindergarten through grade 12 education funding bills have contained local exemptions to the prohibition, sometimes due to district construction schedules. This bill gives the Milaca school district retroactive authority to start its school year before Labor Day.

- 1 Early start date allowed.** Allows the Milaca school district to begin the school year on any day before Labor Day.
- 2 Effective date.** Makes section 1 effective retroactive to July 1, 1998.