HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Norton and others

Subject: Allowing the school year to begin before Labor Day in the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years

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Overview

Current statute (Minn. Stat. § 120A.40) prohibits a school district from starting the school year before Labor Day unless a specific exception applies. In past sessions, legislators have introduced bills on this topic, seeking either a temporary moratorium or outright repeal of the prohibition, arguing that local school districts should have the discretion to decide when school starts. Representatives of the state's resort industry and other commercial interests have sought to retain the prohibition, arguing the importance of the date in terms of accommodating state and regional tourism interests and needs. This bill proposes to allow school districts to start the school year before Labor Day in the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years only, notwithstanding the statutory prohibition against starting the school year before Labor Day.

Section

1 **Labor Day school start; 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.** Notwithstanding the statutory prohibition against beginning the school year before Labor Day, allows a school district to begin the school year on any day before Labor Day during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.