

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, directing a study on the impact of the Labor Day start date on Minnesota's tourism, and repealing the Labor Day start date beginning in the 2011-2012 scho*

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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, directs the education commissioner to study the economic impact of repealing the prohibition, and repeals the prohibition for the 2011-2012 school year and later.

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.
- 2 Impact of Labor Day start repeal study.** Directs the education commissioner to contract to study and make recommendations on the impact of repealing the Labor Day school start date on Minnesota's tourism industry. Directs the commissioner to report to the legislature by January 15, 2011.

- 3** **Repealer.** Repeals the statutory prohibition against starting the school year before Labor Day effective for the 2011-2012 school year.