

March 26, 2007

H 1057. RESTORE FLEXIBILITY TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR. Filed 3/26/07. *TO RESTORE FLEXIBILITY TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR LAW.*

Amends GS 115C-84.2 to modify the school calendar by eliminating from the calendar five days that were designated by local school boards for use as protected teacher workdays to allow teachers to complete instructional and classroom administrative duties. Directs that except for year-round schools, the opening date for students is not to be before August 18 (was, August 25). The closing date for students remains the same, not after June 10. Makes adjustments to the opening date should August 18 fall on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Current law allows the State Board of Education (SBE) to waive school opening and closing dates on a showing of good cause or for an educational purpose. This act expands the definition of educational purposes to include: (1) aligning the system calendar with a local university or community college, (2) adjusting the examination schedule systemwide to benefit students or accommodate specified examinations, (3) accommodating block schedules systemwide, and (4) handling inclement weather or other emergency situations on a systemwide basis. Additionally, the act provides that no waivers for any purpose are to be granted authorizing a school to open before August 10.

Amends GS 115D-20 to authorize the trustees of each NC community college, to the extent permitted by law and rules adopted by the State Board of Community Colleges, to align its calendar for curriculum courses with the calendars of local education agencies (LEAs) located in its service area. Amends GS 116-235(a1) to direct the Board of Trustees for the constituent institutions comprising the University of North Carolina System to the extent permitted by law and by rules adopted by the UNC Board of Governors, to align its instructional calendar with the calendars of LEAs located in the county where the institution is located and in contiguous counties. Effective July 1, 2007, and applies beginning with the 2008-08 school year.

Intro. by Haire, Bell.

GS 115C, 115D, 116