
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill provides a temporary method for certain school districts and nonpublic schools to make up "calamity days" for which schools were closed due to hazardous weather conditions during the 2006-2007 school year in excess of the five allotted calamity days set by current law. Under current law, each school district is required to adopt an annual contingency plan that includes at least five additional days to make up days that school is not in session due to public calamities beyond the five allotted calamity days. The bill allows affected school districts and nonpublic schools to make up days missed beyond the five allotted calamity days by counting the time schools are in session beyond the required minimum number of hours on or after March 1, 2007. The bill would provide an alternative method for affected school districts and nonpublic schools to meet the minimum school year requirements for the 2006-2007 school year. Otherwise, those school districts and nonpublic schools would likely have to implement their contingency plans or incur additional costs associated with personnel, busing, food service, utilities, and other miscellaneous items in order to add additional school days to the school year to make up calamity days when the number of days specified in the contingency plan is not sufficient.

The bill would also allow those affected school districts to receive state funding for the 2007-2008 school year. School funding law prohibits a school district from receiving state funds in any fiscal year if it did not meet the minimum school year requirements for the preceding school year. Thus, the bill provides an alternative method for school districts affected by hazardous weather conditions in the 2006-2007 school year to meet the minimum school year requirements, which would allow these school districts to receive state funds in FY 2008. To date, the Department of Education has estimated that more than 291 school districts would be affected by the bill. An emergency clause contained in the bill would allow the bill to become effective as soon as the Governor signs the bill.

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