



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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**Bill:** [H.B. 191 of the 129th G.A.](#)

**Date:** May 25, 2011

**Status:** As Introduced

**Sponsor:** Reps. Hayes and B. Patmon

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** Yes

**Contents:** Changes the minimum school year from days to hours and prohibits public schools from being open for instruction prior to Labor Day or after Memorial Day

### State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill increases the state instructional time requirement for school districts, STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools. Schools not currently meeting the bill's requirements will likely incur an increase in operating costs as a result of increasing instructional time.

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## Detailed Fiscal Analysis

School districts, STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools are currently required to provide 182 days of instruction during each school year, including designated time for parent-teacher conferences and teacher professional development. Each day must be at least five hours in length for grades 1 through 6 and five and one-half hours in length for grades 7 through 12. Districts are permitted to close schools for up to five days per year, delay the start of a school day for up to two hours, and close schools up to two hours early for public calamities such as hazardous weather, without making up the lost instructional time.

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the bill changes this requirement to one based on hours instead of days. The bill requires at least 960 hours of instructional time for grades 1 through 6 and 1,050 hours of instructional time for grades 7 through 12. This represents an increase of 50 hours for grades 1 through 6 and 49 hours for grades 7 through 12.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the bill eliminates excused time for public calamities, adding up to 25 hours for grades 1 through 6 and 27.5 hours for grades 7 through 12, not including the two hours per day that schools may delay the start of the day or end the day early under current law. Schools not currently meeting the bill's requirements will likely incur additional operating costs to increase the number of hours they are open for instruction. Many schools, however, may already be meeting the bill's requirements. Under the bill, these schools will not incur increased costs, but will experience a decrease in flexibility in reducing scheduled instructional time.

In addition to modifying the instructional time requirement, the bill prohibits public schools, subject to certain exceptions, from being open prior to Labor Day or after Memorial Day. This provision reduces schools' flexibility in establishing their schedules, but is not likely to have significant direct fiscal effects.

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<sup>1</sup> The current requirement totals 910 hours (182 days x 5 hours/day) for grades 1 through 6 and 1,001 hours (182 days x 5.5 hours/day) for grades 7 through 12.