



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Edward Millane

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [S.B. 18 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: February 18, 2011

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Grendell

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Excuses up to five, instead of three, calamity days for the 2010-2011 school year, modifies the manner in which schools may make up excess calamity days, and declares an emergency

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- School districts would likely experience a reduction in operating costs due to the bill's provision excusing two more days for calamities in the current school year.
- Schools that have longer-than-required school days would effectively have three extra excused calamity days under the bill, which may reduce any operating costs that these schools might have experienced in making-up these days.
- Schools that meet for the minimum number of school hours may also experience reduced operating costs under the bill by making up the first three unexcused calamity days in half-hour increments, rather than by adding days to the school year.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Overview

Current law requires a minimum school year of 182 days,¹ except that schools may be closed for a certain number of days (up to five most years and up to three in the current school year) due to public calamities such as hazardous weather, without making up any lost instructional time. Each school district must adopt an annual contingency plan that includes adding at least five whole days to the school year if needed to make up any days missed in excess of the excused calamity days. For additional days missed beyond those covered in the contingency plan, current law permits school districts to make up days by lengthening regularly scheduled days in half-hour increments, instead of by adding days to the school year. The bill makes changes to the number of excused calamity days authorized in the current school year and modifies the way in which schools may make-up unexcused calamity days. Due to the bill's emergency clause, these changes will be effective upon the Governor's signature.

Excused calamity days

For the current school year, the bill permits the Superintendent of Public Instruction to excuse up to five, instead of three, calamity days. An additional two excused calamity days in the current school year may decrease operating costs for schools that would otherwise have to make up those days.

Unexcused calamity days

The bill permits schools to make up their first three unexcused calamity days by counting towards those days the time in the regularly scheduled school day that is in excess of the minimum number of daily hours required by law or, if the regularly scheduled school day equals the minimum number of daily hours, by lengthening the remaining days in the school year in half-hour increments. If a school has unexcused calamity days beyond these three days, the bill requires schools to make-up the next five days as whole days, while any unexcused calamity days beyond those five days can be made up by adding time, in half-hour increments, to remaining school days.²

Under the bill, schools that have longer-than-required school days have, in effect, three additional excused calamity days (a total of eight), since they can count their regularly scheduled excess time toward the first three days missed after the first five excused days. These schools will not incur the costs of operating their buildings for those days. Even those schools meeting for the minimum number of hours, may have reduced costs in making-up the first three unexcused days as, generally, operating

¹ These days include four days for teacher preparation and reporting and parent conferences.

² Please see the bill's analysis for a chart that summarizes the bill's changes.

costs, such as busing and food services, may be lower if, instead of adding whole days to a school year, hours are added to the school day as permitted in the bill.

SB0018IN.docx / th