

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6738**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 297**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 29, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** School Start Date.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Leising

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *School Start Date:* This bill prohibits public schools and accredited nonpublic schools from beginning student instructional days for a school year before the fourth Monday in August, beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. It excludes a year-round school.

*Waivers:* The bill provides that the Department of Education shall develop guidelines for a school corporation to request a waiver of the school start date requirement if a school within the school corporation is placed in the lowest category or designation of school improvement. It also provides that the Department shall develop guidelines for a school corporation to request a waiver of the school start date requirement if the school corporation averaged more than ten canceled school days over the previous five years due to inclement weather.

*Start Date Approval:* The bill requires the governing body of a school corporation to approve the date when a school year may begin at a public meeting for which public notice has been provided and at which public testimony is allowed.

*ISTEP Schedule:* The bill requires the ISTEP applied skills assessment be administered to applicable students within a window of 150 to 155 student instructional days after the school's academic school year begins.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2012.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *School Start Date:* The provision changing the start and ending dates of the school year should have no impact on state expenditures. Schools would still be required to have at least 180 days of instruction per year.

*Waivers:* The Department of Education could incur some costs in developing a waiver and then processing waiver requests. Any additional cost would probably be minor.

*ISTEP Schedule:* Specifying that the ISTEP test window is between the 150<sup>th</sup> and 155<sup>th</sup> student instructional day should have no fiscal impact.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Start Date Approval:* The requirement that the school start date be approved at a public meeting of the school board should have no fiscal impact.

*Waivers:* The process of requesting a waiver to the school start date requirement could have minor fiscal impact on a local school. Any additional cost would be paid from existing revenue sources.

*ISTEP Schedule:* Specifying that the ISTEP test window is between the 150<sup>th</sup> and 155<sup>th</sup> student instructional day should have no fiscal impact.

*School Start Date:* There could be some impact on schools, depending on how the school structures the calendar. The number of teacher contract days is not changed by the bill. Schools would still operate the same number of days. There could be some reduction in heating and cooling costs, depending on when school is held. For FY 2011, schools spent about \$121.4 M on heating and cooling of schools.

*Background:* The following chart shows the school start dates for the 2011-2012 school year. The number of schools listed in the chart is greater than the number of school corporations and charter schools in the state. Eleven school corporations have multiple start dates for schools within their corporation, and there are 25 schools that have year-round calendars.

<b>School Start Date</b>	<b># Schools</b>
7/20/2011	1
7/25/2011	2
7/28/2011	2
8/1/2011	3
8/2/2011	3
8/3/2011	6
8/4/2011	3
8/8/2011	16
8/9/2011	12
8/10/2011	28
8/11/2011	30
8/12/2011	12
8/15/2011	56
8/16/2011	92
8/17/2011	41
8/18/2011	9
8/19/2011	12
8/22/2011	12
8/23/2011	7
8/24/2011	17
8/25/2011	5
8/29/2011	5
8/31/2011	1
9/6/2011	2
<b># of Schools With Different Start Dates</b>	<b>377</b>
<b>% Between 8/8 and 8/12</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>% Between 8/15 and 8/19</b>	<b>56%</b>

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Schools.

**Information Sources:** Department of Education.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.