



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 311

February Session, 2014

House Bill No. 5559

House of Representatives, April 2, 2014

The Committee on Education reported through REP. FLEISCHMANN of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A UNIFORM REGIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-66q of the 2014
2 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
3 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (b) For the school [year] years commencing July 1, 2014, and July 1,
5 2015, a local or regional board of education may adopt the uniform
6 regional school calendar developed and approved pursuant to
7 subsection (a) of this section.

8 (c) [For] (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,
9 for the school year commencing July 1, [2015] 2016, and each school
10 year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall use the
11 uniform regional school calendar developed and approved pursuant to
12 subsection (a) of this section.

13 (2) A local or regional board of education may delay
14 implementation of the uniform regional school calendar until the
15 school year commencing July 1, 2017, if such board of education has an
16 existing employee contract that makes implementation of the uniform
17 regional school calendar impossible.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-66q(b) and (c)

ED *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which delays implementation of the uniform regional school calendar by a year, and permits a school district to delay implementation for an extra year if an existing employee contract makes such implementation impossible, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as it allows districts to maintain the status quo.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5559*****AN ACT CONCERNING A UNIFORM REGIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill delays for one year, from the school year starting July 1, 2015 to the year starting July 1, 2016, the requirement that each local or regional board of education adopt a uniform regional school calendar that the regional education service center (RESC) for that board developed and approved. By law, each RESC must develop a uniform school calendar by April 1, 2014 to be used by each local and regional board of education in the RESC's service region, and the calendar must be consistent with the guidelines developed under PA 13-247 (see BACKGROUND).

Furthermore, the bill gives a school board an additional year, until the school year starting July 1, 2017, to implement the uniform calendar if it has an existing employee contract that makes implementation of the uniform regional school calendar impossible. (Some contracts include specific vacation periods or professional development dates.) The bill does not indicate how it is determined that contracts make the regional calendar impossible.

It also makes conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Uniform Regional School Calendar Task Force and Guidelines***

A 2013 law established a task force to develop regional uniform school calendar guidelines that had to meet the following requirements:

1. at least 180 days of sessions in a school year (as required by existing law);
2. a uniform start date;
3. uniform days for statutorily required professional development and in-service training for certified employees; and
4. up to three uniform school vacation periods during each school year, of which up to two must be one-week vacations and one must be during the summer (PA 13-247, §321).

The task force completed its report and guidelines in January 2014. The guidelines include:

1. a common start date for students of the last Wednesday in August, with a three-day flexible window before or after that Wednesday;
2. Election Day in November to be a professional development day when no students attend school; and
3. five flexible days for individual district needs.

RESCs

Each of the six RESCs in the state serves a different geographical region. The RESCs provide various services to local and regional boards of education.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26 Nay 7 (03/19/2014)