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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** King **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/27/09 **691/aHCPAC/aHEC/a**  
**LAST UPDATED** 03/13/09 **HB SEC**

**SHORT TITLE** Public School Year & Length of Day **SB**

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**ANALYST** Aguilar

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non- Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		Not Significant See fiscal implications				SEG Distribution

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB-134, SJM-36

Conflicts with HB-442

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Office of Educational Accountability (OEA)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of SEC Amendment

The Senate Education Committee amendment to House Bill 691 as amended provides that time allocated in the bill for parent teacher conferences will not have to be made up as part of a lost day.

The amendment also directs the department to provide consideration for variable school calendars and delays implementation until the 2010-2011 school years.

#### Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment to House Bill 691 as amended changes the minimum number of full instructional days a school calendar must contain for schools on a four-day or modified schedule from one hundred fifty-one to one hundred fifty.

#### Synopsis of HCPAC Amendment

The House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee amendment to House Bill 691 provides for

the maximum number of hours of the instructional year set aside for home visits and parent-teacher conferences depending on the grade of the student.

The amendment also provides that up to twelve hours of instructional time in grades seven through twelve can be used for parent-teacher conferences or for high-school students to develop the student's next step plan as required for high school students.

The amendment also provides for the secretary to waive the number of school days where the established minimums would create undue hardship.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Current educational research refers to the time spent meeting by parents and teachers' regarding student performance has a significant impact on student success. The HCPAC amendment regarding hours set aside for parent-teacher conferences or for developing next-step programs appears to be included as a way to provide teachers with the time and opportunity to meet with parents without expending professional development days. This time amounts to six days in kindergarten, 4 days in grades one through six and 2 days in grades seven through twelve.

### Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 691 clarifies the minimum length of an instructional school year and the minimum length of the school day for public school statewide. The requirements are exclusive of any release time for in-service training. Also, days or parts of days lost to weather, in-service training or other events that are not school-directed programs must be made up.

The bill also provides for the secretary of public education to waive provisions of this bill in the event these provisions would create undue hardship provided however, that these students would receive the same total instructional time as other students in the state.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

In conversation with the department regarding additional costs related to implementing the provisions of this bill it was noted that increased food service costs would be covered either through federal reimbursements or students paying for their meals resulting in no additional cost to the districts. With regard to transportation costs, the department evaluated the anticipated FY10 transportation need based on actual district data and using the appropriation contained in HB-2 as passed by the house. The result is an increased need statewide of approximately \$600 thousand or about one-half of one percent. It appears this amount could be absorbed by the districts particularly since the amount allocated for fuel in FY10 is about 0.56 per gallon higher than the consensus forecast.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Time on task has been identified as a critical component of improved student achievement, and an important element of this is more time in the classroom with highly effective teachers. A review by LFC, PED, and LESC identified a number of school districts that take advantage of loopholes in statute to reduce the number of days students are actually in the classroom, causing a vast disparity in the number of instructional days districts provide. As a result, approximately 30 of the 67 districts on a five-day teaching schedule, provide less than the 180 days currently

prescribed in law with one district providing as few as 160 instructional days. Of those districts on a four day schedule 16 of 22 provide less than 150 instructional days.

If the provisions contained in this bill are implemented, it appears that 66 percent of districts statewide would increase the number of instructional days at no additional cost to the state. As it pertains to the proposed funding formula this could have the effect of saving approximately \$96 million in the implementation cost of the new formula.

At present districts may adjust the number of instructional days in their school calendar provided that the district meets a minimum number of annual contact hours. This has resulted in a number of anomalies to occur. A number of districts adjust the length of the instructional day by minutes in order to provide a number of other days in the school calendar for other activities or to make-up missed days. Most educators agree that adding fifteen minutes to the school day for twenty-two days does not equate to a full school day, yet this is what some school districts do to make up for a missed day.

Students will receive a full instructional school year of a minimum of 180 or 151 days (depending on the school week) exclusive of release time for in-service training, weather-related closings, or other events that are not school-directed programs.

The intent of discussions over the interim is to have districts conduct professional development before and after the school year, reducing the amount of non-instructional time built into school calendars.

The bill gives the Secretary the authority to waive the minimum length or number of school days where such minimums would create a hardship as defined by the department.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

It is a common practice for districts to count passing periods as instructional time for the purpose of meeting the total number of daily and annual hours. This is not addressed in the bill.

With the addition of the additional instructional day added by the 2008 Legislature, the number of days for schools on a five day week should be 181.

PA/mt:svb