

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: CS/SB 87 & 92

49th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2010

Tracking Number: .181759.1

Short Title: Delay School Year and Day Length Changes

Sponsor(s): Senators Howie C. Morales and Gay G. Kernan and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 11, 2010

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILLS 87 & 92

Bill Summary:

CS/SB 87 & 92 delays until school year 2011-2012 and subsequent school years the implementation of statute enacted in 2009 requiring that a school year consist of 180 full instructional days for a regular school year calendar and 150 full instructional days for districts on an approved variable school calendar, exclusive of release time for teacher in-service training.

Fiscal Impact:

CS/SB 87 & 92 does not contain an appropriation.

Fiscal Issues:

The Office of Education Accountability (OEA) points out in its analyses of the original SB 87 and SB 92 that delaying the implementation of the mandatory instructional days under the statute would enable the state to assess the costs associated with implementation.

Substantive Issues:

During the 2009 interim, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) heard testimony indicating that the calendar requirements that CS/SB 87 & 92 would delay have raised a number of issues, including concerns that:

- during the budget approval process for school year 2009-2010, a number of school districts and charter schools felt compelled to change their school calendars in the current school year, a year earlier than the effective date of the 2009 legislation;
- more than half of the school districts and charter schools would be required to add instructional days in school year 2010-2011 to satisfy the requirements of the 2009 legislation; and
- the amended provisions to the *Public School Code* relating to the minimum hours required by grade level considered only students on a regular school-year calendar, not those on a variable school-year calendar.

For these reasons, the LESC endorsed SB 92, whose provisions are identical to those of CS/SB 87 & 92.

For consideration of the 2010 Legislature, the LESC has also endorsed another measure to address some of the issues related to SB 87 and SB 92. SJM 12, *Study Various School Calendars*, requests that OEA, in collaboration with the Public Education Department, school districts, charter schools, school boards and governing bodies, teacher and employee representatives, and parent representatives, study the impact of various school calendar options and scheduling practices on teachers, learning time, achievement of students, school operations and district budgetary needs. The study will also examine the need, if any, to amend the *Variable School Calendar Act*. SJM 12 requests that OEA report its findings and recommendations to the LESC by October 31, 2010.

Related Bill(s):

*SB 97 *School District Budget Flexibility*
SJM 12 *Study Various School Calendars*