GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

H **1**

HOUSE BILL 931

Short Title:	Modify School Calendar Law/Surry County LEAs.	(Local)
Sponsors:	Representatives Stevens and McCormick (Primary Sponsors).	
Referred to:	Education, if favorable, Commerce, Small Business, and Entrepreneurship.	

April 1, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MODIFY THE REQUIRED SCHOOL OPENING AND CLOSING DATES IN THE ELKIN CITY, MOUNT AIRY CITY, AND SURRY COUNTY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-84.2(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Opening and Closing Dates. – Local boards of education shall determine the dates of opening and closing the public schools under subdivision (a)(1) of this section. Except for year-round schools, the opening date for students shall not be ~~before August 25, and the~~ more than five days prior to the starting date of the fall term at Surry Community College, as established by its board of trustees. The closing date for students shall not be after June 10. On a showing of good cause, the State Board of Education may waive this requirement to the extent that school calendars are able to provide sufficient days to accommodate anticipated makeup days due to school closings. A local board may revise the scheduled closing date if necessary in order to comply with the minimum requirements for instructional days or instructional time. For purposes of this subsection, the term "good cause" means that schools in any local school administrative unit in a county have been closed eight days per year during any four of the last 10 years because of severe weather conditions, energy shortages, power failures, or other emergency situations.

The State Board also may waive this requirement for an educational purpose. The term "educational purpose" means a local school administrative unit establishes a need to adopt a different calendar for (i) a specific school to accommodate a special program offered generally to the student body of that school, (ii) a school that primarily serves a special population of students, or (iii) a defined program within a school. The State Board may grant the waiver for an educational purpose for that specific school or defined program to the extent that the State Board finds that the educational purpose is reasonable, the accommodation is necessary to accomplish the educational purpose, and the request is not an attempt to circumvent the opening and closing dates set forth in this subsection. The waiver requests for educational purposes shall not be used to accommodate system-wide class scheduling preferences.

The required opening and closing dates under this subsection shall not apply to any school that a local board designated as having a modified calendar for the 2003-2004 school year or to any school that was part of a planned program in the 2003-2004 school year for a system of modified calendar schools, so long as the school operates under a modified calendar."

SECTION 2. This act applies only to the Elkin City, Mount Airy City, and Surry County School Administrative Units.

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 2009, and expires July 1, 2015.