

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

S

1

SENATE BILL 373

Short Title: Calendar Waiver/Enhanced Prog. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Tillman (Primary Sponsor); Brock and Newton.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 20, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PERMIT LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO SET SCHOOL CALENDAR DATES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF ENHANCED CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND COLLEGE TRANSFER CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.

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 be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26, and the closing date for students shall be no later than the Friday closest to June 11. On a showing of good cause, the State Board of Education may waive the requirement that the opening date for students be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and may allow the local board of education to set an opening date no earlier than the Monday closest to August 19, 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 of Education also may waive the requirement upon application by a local board of education to modify the school calendar to support implementation and operation of an education program that is (i) established in collaboration with a community college pursuant to G.S. 115D-20(4)a.2. or G.S. 115D-20(4)a.3. and (ii) designed to align the school's opening and closing dates with the community college's course schedule. The State Board of Education may grant the waiver for such a program to the extent that the State Board finds that the waiver is necessary to accomplish the purpose of the program and the request is not an attempt to circumvent the opening and closing dates set forth in this subsection. Waiver requests for such programs shall not be used to accommodate systemwide 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 is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

