

House Bill 421

By: Representative Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-168 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
2 minimum school year and other matters, so as to provide that a school year shall not begin  
3 prior to the second full week in August; to provide for input on the school year calendar from  
4 community organizations and parent organizations; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-2-168 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the minimum  
9 school year and other matters, is amended by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (c) as  
10 follows:

11 "(c)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Code section, public elementary and  
12 secondary schools of this state receiving state aid under this article may provide each  
13 eligible student with access to no less than 180 school days of education each fiscal year,  
14 or the equivalent thereof as determined in accordance with State Board of Education  
15 guidelines. The State Board of Education shall define a school year, which shall be no  
16 less than 180 days of instruction in accordance with the provisions of this subsection, or  
17 the equivalent thereof; shall define the length of the school day, based on a 180 day  
18 school year, and equivalent lengths; and shall provide that all public elementary and  
19 secondary schools, beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, may be closed for instruction  
20 on November 11 of each year to enable students, teachers, and administrators to  
21 participate in Veterans Day programs to honor veterans of the armed forces. No local  
22 board of education shall adopt a school year calendar that commences prior to the second  
23 full week of August; provided, however, that this shall not apply to schools that have  
24 year-round operation in accordance with subsection (e) of this Code section. Further,  
25 each local board of education shall solicit input from community organizations and parent

26 organizations on the development and adoption of each school year calendar established  
27 by the local board of education."

28 **SECTION 2.**

29 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.