

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

**S.F. No. 2304**

(SENATE AUTHORS: ABELER, Newton, Relph, Eaton and Marty)

DATE  
03/11/2019

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Introduction and first reading  
Referred to E-12 Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to religious holidays; modifying student absence from school for religious
- 1.3 observances; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, sections 120A.35; 120A.40.
- 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 120A.35, is amended to read:
- 1.6 **120A.35 ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE.**
- 1.7 Reasonable efforts must be made by a school district to accommodate any pupil who
- 1.8 wishes to be excused from a curricular activity for a religious observance. A school board
- 1.9 must provide annual notice to parents of the school district's policy relating to a pupil's
- 1.10 absence from school for religious observance.
- 1.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for the 2019-2020 school year and later.
- 1.12 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 120A.40, is amended to read:
- 1.13 **120A.40 SCHOOL CALENDAR.**
- 1.14 (a) Except for learning programs during summer, flexible learning year programs
- 1.15 authorized under sections 124D.12 to 124D.127, and learning year programs under section
- 1.16 124D.128, a district must not commence an elementary or secondary school year before
- 1.17 Labor Day, except as provided under paragraph (b). Days devoted to teachers' workshops
- 1.18 may be held before Labor Day. Districts that enter into cooperative agreements are
- 1.19 encouraged to adopt similar school calendars.
- 1.20 (b) A district may begin the school year on any day before Labor Day:

2.1 (1) to accommodate a construction or remodeling project of \$400,000 or more affecting  
2.2 a district school facility;

2.3 (2) if the district has an agreement under section 123A.30, 123A.32, or 123A.35 with a  
2.4 district that qualifies under clause (1); or

2.5 (3) if the district agrees to the same schedule with a school district in an adjoining state.

2.6 (c) A school board may consider the community's religious observances when adopting  
2.7 an annual school calendar.

2.8 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for the 2019-2020 school year and later.