

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 58

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS

SCHOOLS: Provides relative to the requirements for school instructional time (Item #42)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:154.1(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 17:154.1(C), relative to
3 minimum requirements for instructional time for students in public schools; to
4 provide for the meaning of instructional time; to provide for applicability of such
5 requirements under certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:154.1(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:154.1(C)
8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §154.1. Length of school day and year; requirements

10 A.(1)(a) The minimum school day for grades one through twelve in every
11 public school in the state shall consist of three hundred sixty minutes of instructional
12 time, exclusive of all recesses. The minimum school year shall consist of one
13 hundred seventy-seven days of instruction. However, in order to provide teacher
14 training, provide for the safety and well-being of students, or implement other
15 educational reform efforts, any governing authority of a public elementary or
16 secondary school may authorize some or all of its schools to modify the total number
17 of instructional minutes per day and instructional days per year as long as the total
18 number of instructional minutes per year is no less than the minimum number of
19 instructional minutes per day multiplied by the minimum number of instructional
20 days as required by this Section.

Proposed law provides that instructional time does not include any of the following:

- (1) Independent, ungraded work and enrichment activities that are not led by a teacher or staff member.
- (2) Lunch.
- (3) Parent-teacher conferences.
- (4) Schoolwide teacher training and professional development.
- (5) Time between classes.

Proposed law requires public school governing authorities to use modified instructional formats and schedules to ensure students receive the minimum required instructional time pursuant to present law regardless of a natural disaster or an emergency declared by the governor.

(Amends R.S. 17:154.1(A)(1); Adds R.S. 17:154.1(C))