

Senate Education Committee

Senator Mike Folmer Chairman

Room 170 Main Capitol • Senate Box 203048, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-3048 • 717-787-5708 • Fax: 717-787-3455

BILL SUMMARY Senate Bill 1281, Printer's No. 1810 Prime Sponsor: Senator Corman

SYNOPSIS:

Senate Bill 1281 amends the Public School Code to provide public schools with additional options to make up snow days.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 1281 amends the Public School Code to provide school districts, intermediate units and area vocational-technical schools with additional options to make up snow days during the weather emergency of 2014. In order to meet the Commonwealth's 180 day requirement, the Secretary of Education would be permitted to authorize school entities to compute the requirement on an hourly rather than a daily basis. Boards would also be permitted to use Saturday attendance.

The hourly requirement provides for nine hundred hours of instruction for elementary schools and nine hundred ninety hours for secondary schools. The Saturday option, which would also apply to charter schools, permits the addition of one Saturday a month to make up snow days. Students could be excused from Saturday attendance for religious and other approved reasons.

Further, no school entity which was closed because of the weather emergency of 2014 would receive less subsidy payments or reimbursements than it was otherwise entitled to receive.

Effective Date: Immediately.

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