

1 S.209

2 Introduced by Senator Lyons

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; school calendar; Labor Day

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to prohibit public school districts
7 from scheduling the first student day of any academic year to occur before
8 Labor Day.

9 An act relating to prohibiting the first student day of the academic year to
10 occur before Labor Day

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

13 The general assembly finds:

14 (1) The date on which a school year begins has a great impact on
15 children, their families, and local businesses.

16 (2) When students begin school before Labor Day, it is difficult for
17 families to attend many of the state's agricultural fairs or to participate in the
18 fairs' 4-H events and other educational programs.

19 (3) The Vermont tourism industry, which includes hotels, restaurants,
20 state parks, amusement areas, golf courses, and agricultural fairs, depends

1 upon the seasonal employment of high school students who will work at least
2 until the end of the Labor Day holiday weekend, the unofficial end of the
3 summer vacation season.

4 (4) The Vermont tourism industry relies upon revenues from Vermont
5 families spending their vacations or taking day trips in Vermont, and it loses
6 potential revenue when students begin school prior to Labor Day.

7 (5) Many small businesses that operate primarily during the summer
8 months, especially those related to agriculture or tourism, depend upon the
9 participation of family members and can find it difficult to operate if the school
10 year begins prior to Labor Day.

11 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1071(b) is amended to read:

12 (b) Hours of operation; academic year. Within the minimum set by the
13 state board, the school board shall fix the number of hours that shall constitute
14 a school day, subject to change upon the order of the state board. The first
15 student day shall not occur before Labor Day in any academic year.

16 Sec. 3. APPLICATION

17 Sec. 2 of this act shall apply in the 2011–2012 academic year and after.