Bill Summary 1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.: SB 758
Version: INT
Request No. 180
Author: Sen. Thompson
Date: 01/15/2025

Bill Analysis

SB 758 allows a school district or charter school to include in its school year policy one or more emergency virtual days that may only be used during inclement weather, due to unavailability of teachers and support staff due to illness, due to building maintenance issues, or for a reason approved by the State Board of Education. It requires a district or charter school that decides to use an emergency virtual day to notify the State Department of Education within 72 hours of the decision. It directs the Department within one calendar week of receiving the notification to determine whether the use of virtual instruction complies with the bill's provisions. If the Department determines the use of virtual instruction did not comply, the bill requires the district or charter school to provide an additional day of in-person instruction. It allows for an appeal of such decision to the State Board of Education.

The measure provides a minimum number of hours of virtual instruction to be provided based on grade level. It also allows the Department to audit district or charter school records to determine if a majority of students complied with the required minimum hours of virtual instruction, and if the Department determines less than a majority complied, the district or charter school is required to provide an additional day of in-person instruction. It allows for an appeal of such decision to the State Board of Education. The measure also requires the State Department of Education by June 30, 2026, and each subsequent June 30 to publish on its website and electronically submit to the Governor and legislative leaders a report with information regarding the use of emergency virtual days.

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