



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR**

Executive Order 2018-04

An order establishing the Save Our Summers Study Commission

WHEREAS, the percentage of New Hampshire school children starting school after Labor Day has been declining for decades and has dropped 50% in the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, the majority of school districts in New Hampshire now start school before Labor Day; and

WHEREAS, research in a number of states has indicated that starting school after Labor Day lengthens the summer tourism season, increases tourism expenditures, and increases tourism and recreation related State and local government revenues; and

WHEREAS, starting school after Labor Day may increase summer internship and externship opportunities for high school age children and provide more avenues for evaluating their preferred post-secondary educational paths; and

WHEREAS, a pre-Labor Day school start reduces the opportunity for family vacations in the month of August, which has become the most popular non-holiday vacation month of the year; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire currently regulates multiple aspects of the school year and school day, including requirements for the number of school days per school year, the number of instruction hours per school year, and the number of instructional hours per school day;

WHEREAS, New Hampshire has an obligation to evaluate whether starting school after Labor Day would have a positive impact on academic performance due to an enhancement of other recreational and educational opportunities that exist outside of the formal school environment; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire students, teachers, families, and businesses would benefit from a comprehensive review of all potential advantages and disadvantages of a post-Labor Day school

start date to allow complete and fair consideration of potential legislation to accomplish the same.

NOW THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me pursuant to part II, article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby order, effective immediately, that:

1. There is established the Save Our Summers Study Commission (the "Commission") to conduct a comprehensive review of the impact of beginning the K-12 school year prior to Labor Day and the feasibility and desirability of passing legislation to prohibit school districts from starting school before Labor Day. The Commission shall consist of the following members, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority:

- a) One state senator, appointed by the Senate President;
- b) Two state representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- c) One representative from the hospitality industry, appointed by the Governor;
- d) One representative from the ski industry, appointed by the Governor;
- e) One representative from a State attraction, appointed by the Governor;
- f) One representative from a local Chamber of Commerce, appointed by the Governor;
- g) One representative from the New Hampshire Travel Council, appointed by the Governor;
- h) Two public members who shall each be a parent of a school aged child, appointed by the Governor;
- i) One representative from a teacher's union, appointed by the Governor;
- j) One representative from a school administrative unit, appointed by the Governor;
- k) One local school board member, appointed by the Governor; and
- l) One representative from the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association, appointed by the Governor.

2. The Commission shall evaluate the potential impacts of requiring K-12 schools to establish a post-Labor Day start date, including but not limited to impacts on the following:

- a) The State's tourism industry;
- b) The State's hospitality industry;
- c) School athletic programs;
- d) Academic performance;
- e) The feasibility of statewide implementation of a post-Labor Day school start requirement;
- f) State and local tax revenue;
- g) State and federal school funding;
- h) Non-instructional costs for schools, such as heating and cooling;
- i) Student wages from summer jobs;
- j) Workforce development;
- k) Dual credit course study; and
- l) Technical programs which require full summers for internships and externship opportunities

3. The Governor shall designate a member of the Commission to serve as chair.

4. The Commission shall meet as needed, and shall submit to the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House, on or before November 30, 2018, a report which summarizes the Commission's activities and which details the Commission's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation which the Commission develops.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 28th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and eighteen, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-two.


GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE