COMMITTEE REPORT

February 9, 2017

**H. 3508**

Introduced by Reps. Allison, Henegan, Brown and Whipper

S. Printed 2/9/17--H.

Read the first time January 18, 2017.

**THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS**

To whom was referred a Joint Resolution (H. 3508) to provide that the opening date for students to attend public schools during the 2017‑2018 School Year may be as early as Thursday, August seventeenth, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the joint resolution, as and if amended, by deleting all after the enacting words and inserting:

/SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 59‑1‑425(A) regarding the opening date for students to attend public schools, a local school board may choose Thursday, August 17, 2017, as the opening date for students attending schools in the district. Schools that open prior to the third Monday in August must provide grade appropriate science, mathematics, and other relevant instruction to students regarding the solar eclipse. Students must be provided the opportunity to safely observe the eclipse prior to and during totality. These provisions only apply to the 2017‑2018 School Year.

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor. /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

MERITA A. ALLLISON for Committee.

**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Introduced on January 18, 2017**

**State Expenditure**

House Bill 3508 allows public school districts to set August 17, 2017 as the opening date of the 2017-2018 school year rather than the third Monday in August. The Department of Education indicates the bill does not operationally or fiscally impact the department or local school districts. Therefore, the bill does not have an expenditure or revenue impact on the general fund, federal funds, or other funds.

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director

Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO PROVIDE THAT THE OPENING DATE FOR STUDENTS TO ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOLS DURING THE 2017‑2018 SCHOOL YEAR MAY BE AS EARLY AS THURSDAY, AUGUST SEVENTEENTH, AT THE ELECTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Whereas, on Monday, August 21, 2017, South Carolina will be in the path of the largest total solar eclipse experienced in North America since February 1978, providing a rare learning opportunity for people in the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, to capitalize on the potential educational value of this eclipse, South Carolina public school districts should be given the flexibility to move their opening dates to before the eclipse. Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 59‑1‑425(A) regarding the opening date for students to attend public schools, a local school board may choose Thursday, August 17, 2017, as the opening date for students attending schools in the district. These provisions only apply to the 2017-2018 School Year.

SECTION 2. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑