KYW Newsradio 1060 Philadelphia

Pa. House Could Soon Vote On Post Labor Day School Bill

by KYW's Tony Romeo

The chairman of the state House Tourism Committee says he thinks a bill that would require public schools to open after Labor Day could get a vote on the House floor before the legislature's summer recess.

During a hearing on the bill, tourism industry officials said the trend toward earlier school year openings is crippling business. Jason Fink, director of the Lycoming County Visitors Bureau, said attendance for the Little League World Series championship game in Williamsport has been dropping in recent years:

"When parents look at the day of the game, and the fact that very next day is the start of school for many of the children in both Pennsylvania and 38 other states, most choose to watch it from home."

Bill LaCoff is President of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and a board member in the Owen J. Roberts School District in Chester County:

"Decisions regarding school calendars are local community issues that must be considered by each individual school district."

But the chairman of the House Tourism Committee says he thinks there's a groundswell of support for post Labor Day school start legislation.

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