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# **Coalition calls for closure of post-Labor Day school loophole**

*Anderson Economic Group study provides compelling data*

**LANSING, Mich.** – Tourism-related leaders from across Michigan today called for the state Legislature to close a loophole allowing public schools to begin school before Labor Day.

At a Capitol news conference, leadership from the Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association (MLTA), Michigan Restaurant Association, Michigan Chamber, Michigan Association of Recreational Vehicles and Campgrounds, and Michigan Boating Industries Association joined to announce the need to tighten current state law. Fueled by a just-released study by the Anderson Economic Group, they renewed their support for a post-Labor Day school start and called for legislation to prevent schools from circumventing the law.

“The Anderson Economic Group study presents undeniable evidence of post-Labor Day school start’s beneficial impact on tourism, families and our great state,” said Deanna Richeson, MLTA president and CEO.

The Anderson Economic Group study examined the school year calendar and tourism in Michigan. Specifically, the research looked at the effects of post-Labor Day school start and year-round schools on the state’s tourism industry.

(more)

Key findings include:

- Room sales for Michigan hotels increased by 40,000 to 44,000 room nights in 2007 due to the PLDS law. The impact of the PLDS law on hotel room revenues was between \$4.5 million and \$5.2 million.
- The PLDS mandate increased hotel room sales and room revenues for hotels in all regions of the state. The impact was the largest in the southeastern Lower Peninsula.
- In Michigan, the PLDS mandate increased tourism spending by at least \$20 million in 2007.
- As policymakers consider the costs and benefits of year-round schools, a statewide implementation may reduce revenues for the tourism industry. Configuring school year calendars so they maximize student breaks during July and August could avoid the potential revenue loss.

The study did not estimate the PLDS impact on day visitors and overnight visitors who use other lodging. While their spending volume and mix would be different, they are an important source of tourism business and are not captured in the data sources, according to the Anderson Economic Group.

In addition to the Anderson Economic Group study, a survey of statewide voters completed by Mitchell Research in August showed 64 percent of voters preferred taking their vacations during July and August. Sixty-one percent of parenting age voters supported starting school after Labor Day.

Additional findings from “Year-Round Schools: In Brief,” a 2014 Congressional Research Study, found that research on year-round schools’ impact on student achievement has generally been found to be inconclusive and lacking in methodological rigor.

“The facts are clear,” said Richeson. “It’s time to close the Labor Day loophole and give parents what they want and our industry what it needs to grow and flourish.”

The coalition has called on state legislators to address the issue before year’s end.

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