

# HOUSE BILL 148

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By: **Delegates Sophocleus, Afzali, Aumann, Barnes, Beidle, Cane, Cardin, Costa, Dwyer, Fisher, Frush, Gaines, George, Griffith, Jameson, Kipke, Love, McComas, McConkey, McDermott, McMillan, Niemann, Norman, Pena-Melnyk, B. Robinson, Rosenberg, Schuh, Stifler, Vitale, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Public School Holidays – Veterans’ Day**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring Veterans’ Day to be a public school holiday; and  
4 generally relating to Veterans’ Day as a public school holiday.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article – Education  
7 Section 7–103  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
11 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

12 **Article – Education**

13 7–103.

14 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), (e), and (f) of this section, each  
15 public school under the jurisdiction of a county board:

16 (1) (i) Shall be open for pupil attendance for at least 180 actual  
17 school days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours during a 10–month period in each  
18 school year; or

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) If normal school attendance is prevented because of  
2 conditions described in subsection (b) of this section, shall be open for at least 1,080  
3 hours during a 10-month period;

4 (2) Shall be open for pupil attendance a minimum of 3 hours during  
5 each school day; and

6 (3) May not be open on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays in order to  
7 meet the 180-day or 1,080-hour requirement of this subsection.

8 (b) (1) If a county board submits a written application to the State Board  
9 that describes a demonstrated effort by the county board to comply with subsection (a)  
10 of this section, the State Board may permit:

11 (i) Adjustments in the length of the school year;

12 (ii) Exceptions from the requirement that the school year be  
13 completed within a 10-month period;

14 (iii) Adjustments in the length of the school day; and

15 (iv) Schools to be open on holidays.

16 (2) These adjustments may be granted only if normal school  
17 attendance is prevented because of:

18 (i) Natural disaster;

19 (ii) Civil disaster; or

20 (iii) Severe weather conditions.

21 (3) Education funding from State or local sources may not be reduced  
22 if there are less than 180 school days in any year because of an approved application  
23 under this subsection.

24 (4) In case of emergency, the State Board may open schools on  
25 holidays.

26 (c) (1) The following days are public school holidays:

27 (i) Thanksgiving Day and the day after;

28 (ii) Christmas Eve and from then through January 1;

29 (iii) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;

- 1 (iv) Presidents' Day;
- 2 (v) The Friday before Easter and from then through the  
3 Monday after Easter;
- 4 (vi) Memorial Day; [and]
- 5 **(VII) VETERANS' DAY; AND**
- 6 **[(vii)] (VIII) Primary and general election days.**

7 (2) If the federal and State observances of a holiday are on different  
8 days, the board of education of each county shall determine which date shall be the  
9 date of observance for the public schools within the county.

10 (3) The public schools shall devote a part of the day to appropriate  
11 exercises for the following days:

- 12 (i) Washington's Birthday;
- 13 (ii) Lincoln's Birthday;
- 14 (iii) [Veterans' Day;
- 15 (iv)] Columbus Day;
- 16 **[(v)] (IV) Arbor Day; and**
- 17 **[(vi)] (V) Any other day of national significance.**

18 (4) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the public  
19 schools, in the following counties, may remain open and in session on primary and  
20 general election days:

- 21 (i) Calvert;
- 22 (ii) Caroline;
- 23 (iii) Dorchester;
- 24 (iv) Kent;
- 25 (v) Talbot; and
- 26 (vi) Worcester.

1           (d)     Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the State Board shall  
2     divide the school year into the terms it considers appropriate.

3           (e)     (1)    The county boards of Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard,  
4     Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, and the Board of School Commissioners of  
5     Baltimore City, may elect to operate one or more schools within the county or  
6     Baltimore City on a year-round basis, provided that the 180-day and the minimum  
7     hour requirements under this section are met.

8           (2)    Nothing in this section precludes a county board from conducting a  
9     year-round pilot study or program that is funded by the county board.

10          (f)     Publicly funded prekindergarten programs are not subject to the  
11     requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

12           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13     July 1, 2014.