

HOUSE BILL 1081

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By: **Delegates A. Miller, Afzali, Carr, C. Howard, Jalisi, Kelly, Korman, McMillan, Moon, Pena–Melnyk, Platt, Waldstreicher, and C. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2015

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Orange Ribbon for Healthy School Hours – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Orange Ribbon for Healthy School Hours certification
4 within the State Department of Education beginning in a certain school year;
5 providing for the purpose of the Orange Ribbon for Healthy School Hours
6 certification; establishing the requirements for a local school system to receive an
7 Orange Ribbon for Healthy School Hours certification; requiring the State Board of
8 Education to establish certain criteria on or before a certain date and provide certain
9 information to certain local school systems on or before a certain date; requiring an
10 Orange Ribbon for Healthy School Hours certification to be renewed each year under
11 certain circumstances; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations;
12 defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Orange Ribbon for Healthy
13 School Hours certification.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Education

16 Section 7–121

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

19 Preamble

20 WHEREAS, Adolescent sleep deprivation is a statewide public health crisis; and

21 WHEREAS, Early school start times are recognized as a major but remediable
22 contributor to adolescent sleep deprivation; and

23 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that middle schools
24 and high schools start the school day no earlier than 8:30 a.m. for the sake of students'
25 health, safety, and academic success; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the State
2 Department of Education routinely advise local school systems of the health and academic
3 benefits of later school start times and encourage local school systems to conduct feasibility
4 studies regarding the implementation of a school start time of no earlier than 8:00 a.m.;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has expressed concern
7 that “by leaving school start times a matter for each local jurisdiction, the State risks letting
8 local resistance trump a strong body of scientific evidence that sleep is critical to health
9 and academic achievement”; and

10 WHEREAS, Extensive and costly efforts by local school systems since the 1990s have
11 failed to overcome local resistance to school start times that are consistent with accepted
12 evidence about the health and safety needs of students; and

13 WHEREAS, Local feasibility studies as recommended by the Department of Health
14 and Mental Hygiene and the State Department of Education involve unnecessary and
15 wasteful expenditures of time, money, and human resources and only replicate an already
16 extensive body of evidence about the implementation of school hours for the sake of
17 students’ health, safety, and academic success in Maryland and nationwide; now, therefore,

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 **7–121.**

22 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “HEALTHY SCHOOL START TIME” MEANS A SCHOOL**
23 **STARTING TIME OF NO EARLIER THAN 8:00 A.M.**

24 **(B) (1) BEGINNING IN THE 2016–2017 SCHOOL YEAR, THERE IS AN**
25 **ORANGE RIBBON FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL HOURS CERTIFICATION IN THE**
26 **DEPARTMENT.**

27 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE ORANGE RIBBON FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL**
28 **HOURS CERTIFICATION IS TO RECOGNIZE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS THAT CREATE,**
29 **IMPLEMENT, AND ENFORCE SCHOOL START TIMES THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE**
30 **SCHOOL START TIMES RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF**
31 **HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, AND THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS.**

32 **(C) TO RECEIVE AN ORANGE RIBBON FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL HOURS, A**
33 **LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM:**

- 1 I. COACHES;
- 2 J. CHILDCARE PROVIDERS;
- 3 K. LOCAL EMPLOYERS OF STUDENTS;
- 4 L. CITY OR COUNTY AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE SERVICES
5 OR OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS; AND
- 6 M. ORGANIZATIONS THAT USE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS'
7 FIELDS AND FACILITIES ON A REGULAR BASIS; AND

8 2. ENGAGE THE STAKEHOLDERS LISTED IN ITEM 1 OF
9 THIS ITEM IN CONVERSATIONS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONTRAINDICATIONS OF
10 ALTERING CURRENT SCHOOL START TIMES; AND

11 (III) NOTIFY THE PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDERS OF ANY CHANGES
12 TO SCHOOL START TIMES.

13 (D) (1) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2015, THE STATE BOARD SHALL
14 ESTABLISH CRITERIA THAT A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM MUST MEET TO PROVE THAT
15 THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM IS ENFORCING SCHOOL START TIMES THAT ARE
16 CONSISTENT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT, THE
17 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, AND THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
18 OF PEDIATRICS.

19 (2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2015, THE STATE BOARD SHALL
20 PROVIDE EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM WITH:

21 (I) INFORMATION ON METHODS OF EFFICIENTLY ALTERING
22 CURRENT SCHOOL START TIMES TO BE CONSISTENT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS; AND

23 (II) THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
24 SUBSECTION.

25 (E) AN ORANGE RIBBON FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL HOURS CERTIFICATION
26 GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE RENEWED EACH YEAR IF THE LOCAL
27 SCHOOL SYSTEM PRESENTS EVIDENCE THAT THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM IS IN
28 COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

29 (F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE
30 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2015.