

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 626
Ways and Means

(Delegate C. Wilson, *et al.*)

Education - Public School Holidays - Veterans' Day

This bill designates Veterans' Day as a public school holiday. The bill also removes Veterans' Day from the list of days for which a part of the day must be devoted to appropriate exercises.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Closing public schools on Veterans' Day will not alter the minimum number of school days and school hours that public schools must be open and, therefore, will not materially affect annual expenditures for operating public schools. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Some small businesses may realize increased Veterans' Day income during daytime hours.

Analysis

Current Law: Public schools must be open for at least 180 days and 1,080 school hours (1,170 hours for high schools) during a 10-month period. However, under certain conditions (*i.e.*, a natural disaster, civil disaster, and severe weather conditions), the State Board of Education may permit a local board of education to make adjustments to the length of the school day and school year, as well as exceptions to the 10-month period limit.

In case of emergency, the State Board of Education may open schools on holidays. The State has designated several days as public school holidays. They include the following:

- Thanksgiving Day and the day after;
- Christmas Eve through January 1;
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;
- Presidents' Day;
- the Friday before Easter through the Monday after Easter;
- Memorial Day; and
- primary and general election days for most counties.

The public schools must devote a part of Veterans' Day (among other designated days) to exercises that are appropriate to the day. Veterans' Day (November 11) is a holiday for State employees and is a mandatory bank holiday.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 148 of 2014 received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken on the bill. HB 276 of 2010 received an unfavorable report from the House Ways and Means Committee. Its cross file, SB 410, received an unfavorable report from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Cross File: None designated; however, SB 269 (Senator Salling, *et al.* – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) is identical.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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min/rhh

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