

# HOUSE BILL 616

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7lr2695  
CF SB 232

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By: **Delegates Atterbeary, Angel, Barkley, Barve, Clippinger, Cullison, Davis, Dumais, Ebersole, Hayes, Healey, Hettleman, Hill, C. Howard, Kelly, Korman, Kramer, R. Lewis, Lierman, Lisanti, Luedtke, McCray, Moon, Morales, Patterson, Pena–Melnik, Queen, Robinson, Sanchez, Turner, Valderrama, Valentino–Smith, Waldstreicher, A. Washington, ~~and M. Washington~~ M. Washington, Tarlau, Ali, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2017

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2017

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Attendance Policy**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that certain absences from school are lawful absences under  
4 certain circumstances; requiring each county board of education to develop a certain  
5 attendance policy for pregnant and parenting students that, at a minimum, excuses  
6 certain absences under certain circumstances and provides a certain number of days  
7 of excused absences for certain students under certain circumstances; ~~requiring~~  
8 authorizing certain schools to allow certain students to make up the work that the  
9 student missed in a certain time period and to choose the method by which to make  
10 up the work that the student missed; requiring each county board to publish its  
11 attendance policy for pregnant and parenting students on the county board’s Web  
12 site; and generally relating to absences from school for pregnant and parenting  
13 students.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Education

16 Section 7–301.1

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Education**

4 **7-301.1.**

5 (A) A STUDENT'S ABSENCE DUE TO A STUDENT'S PREGNANCY OR  
6 PARENTING NEEDS IS A LAWFUL ABSENCE AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

7 (B) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A WRITTEN ATTENDANCE  
8 POLICY FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS THAT, AT A MINIMUM, MEETS  
9 THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

10 (C) (1) THE POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS  
11 SECTION SHALL:

12 (I) EXCUSE ALL ABSENCES DUE TO PREGNANCY- OR  
13 PARENTING-RELATED CONDITIONS, INCLUDING ABSENCES FOR:

14 1. LABOR;

15 2. DELIVERY;

16 3. RECOVERY; AND

17 4. PRENATAL AND POSTNATAL MEDICAL  
18 APPOINTMENTS;

19 ~~(II) EXCUSE ANY PREGNANCY-RELATED ABSENCES THAT ARE~~  
20 ~~DEEMED MEDICALLY NECESSARY BY THE STUDENT'S PHYSICIAN;~~

21 ~~(III)~~ (II) PROVIDE AT LEAST 10 DAYS OF EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR  
22 A PARENTING STUDENT AFTER THE BIRTH OF THE STUDENT'S CHILD;

23 ~~(IV)~~ (III) EXCUSE ANY PARENTING-RELATED ABSENCES DUE TO  
24 AN ILLNESS OR A MEDICAL APPOINTMENT OF THE STUDENT'S CHILD, INCLUDING UP  
25 TO 4 DAYS OF ABSENCES PER SCHOOL YEAR FOR WHICH THE SCHOOL MAY NOT  
26 REQUIRE A NOTE FROM A PHYSICIAN; AND

27 ~~(V)~~ (IV) EXCUSE ANY ABSENCE DUE TO A LEGAL APPOINTMENT  
28 INVOLVING THE PREGNANT OR PARENTING STUDENT THAT IS RELATED TO FAMILY  
29 LAW PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING ADOPTION, CUSTODY, AND VISITATION.

1                   (2) ~~AT THE CONCLUSION OF ANY PREGNANCY OR~~  
2 ~~PARENTING RELATED PERIOD OF ABSENCE, THE SCHOOL SHALL~~ IN ADDITION TO  
3 HOME AND HOSPITAL SERVICES, THE SCHOOL MAY ALLOW THE STUDENT TO:

4                   (I)    MAKE UP THE WORK THAT THE STUDENT MISSED IN A TIME  
5 PERIOD THAT EQUALS AT LEAST AS MANY DAYS THAT THE STUDENT WAS ABSENT;  
6 AND

7                   (II)   CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES TO MAKE  
8 UP WORK THAT THE STUDENT MISSED:

9                               1.    **RETAKE A SEMESTER;**

10                            2.    PARTICIPATE IN AN ONLINE COURSE CREDIT  
11 RECOVERY PROGRAM; OR

12                            3.    ALLOW THE STUDENT 6 WEEKS TO CONTINUE AT THE  
13 SAME PACE AND FINISH AT A LATER DATE.

14                   (3)    EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL PUBLISH ITS WRITTEN ATTENDANCE  
15 POLICY FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS ON THE COUNTY BOARD’S WEB  
16 SITE.

17                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
18 1, 2017.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.