

SENATE BILL 729

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8lr2629
CF HB 553

By: **Senators King, Benson, DeGrange, Feldman, Ferguson, Guzzone, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 15, 2018

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Length of School Year – Adjustments**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a county board of education to extend the length of the
4 school year for up to 5 days and beyond a certain date without approval from the
5 State Board of Education; requiring a county board to submit a written application
6 to the State Board for permission to increase the length of the school year for more
7 than a certain number of school days in accordance with a certain provision of law
8 or to decrease the length of the school year; and generally relating to adjustments to
9 the length of the school year and county boards of education.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 7–103(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Education
17 Section 7–103(b)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

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.



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Article – Education

2 7–103.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (i) [Adjustments] **THE FOLLOWING ADJUSTMENTS:**

19 **1. AN INCREASE in the length of the school year FOR MORE**
20 **SCHOOL DAYS THAN THE NUMBER OF DAYS EXTENDED BY A COUNTY BOARD UNDER**
21 **PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION; OR**

22 **2. A DECREASE IN THE LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR;**

23 (ii) Exceptions from the requirement that the school year be
24 completed within a 10–month period;

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

26 (iv) Schools to be open on holidays.

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

29 (i) Natural disaster;

30 (ii) Civil disaster; or

1 (iii) Severe weather conditions.

2 (3) A COUNTY BOARD MAY EXTEND THE LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL
3 YEAR FOR UP TO 5 DAYS AND BEYOND JUNE 15 WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM THE
4 STATE BOARD.

5 [(3)] (4) Education funding from State or local sources may not be
6 reduced if there are less than 180 school days in any year because of an approved
7 application under PARAGRAPH (1)(1)2 OF this subsection.

8 [(4)] (5) In case of emergency, the State Board may open schools on
9 holidays.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
11 1, 2018.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.