

BY: Committee on Ways and Means

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 128
(Third Reading File Bill)

On page 1, at the top of the page, insert “EMERGENCY BILL”; strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute “Community Control of School Calendars Act”; strike beginning with “repealing” in line 3 down through “education” in line 8 and substitute “requiring county boards of education to annually set school year dates; removing a provision relating to extending the school year beyond June 15; requiring that a statement be mailed to voters under certain circumstances; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the school year”; in line 11, strike “7–103” and substitute “7–103(b)(1)(i)”; and after line 13, insert:

“BY repealing

Article - Education
Section 7-103(b)(3)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 7–103(g)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

BY renumbering

Article - Education
Section 7–103(b)(4) and (5), respectively
to be Section 7–103(b)(3) and (4), respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement).

(Over)

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On pages 1 through 4, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 18 on page 1 through line 23 on page 4, and substitute:

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

(i) The following adjustments:

1. An increase in the length of the school year [for more school days than the number of days extended by a county board under paragraph (3) of this subsection]; or

2. A decrease in the length of the school year;

[(3) A county board may extend the length of the school year for up to 5 school days beyond June 15 without approval from the State Board.]

(G) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW AND SUBJECT ONLY TO THIS SECTION, EACH COUNTY BOARD ANNUALLY SHALL SET THE START AND END DATES OF THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 7-103(b)(4) and (5), respectively, of Article – Education of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-103(b)(3) and (4), respectively.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if this Act is submitted to the qualified voters of the State at the next general election to be held in November 2020 for their approval or rejection in accordance with Article XVI of the Maryland

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Constitution, the following statement shall appear in the specimen ballots that are mailed to registered voters before the election under § 7–105 of the Election Law Article:

“This Act would allow a county board of education to set the start date and end date of the school calendar for the public schools in that county. Public schools must be open for at least 180 days and 1,080 school hours at elementary and middle schools and 1,170 hours at high schools during a 10-month period. A county board may apply to the State Board of Education for a waiver from these requirements if normal school attendance is prevented because of natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions.”

This Act would return to a county board the sole authority to set the start and end dates of the school calendar year. A county board would still be required to meet other requirements, such as the minimum number of days and hours, when setting the school calendar.”.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.”.