

SENATE BILL 676

F3

1r2789
CF 1r2792

By: **Senator Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Garrett County – Public Schools – Virtual Education Days**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Garrett County Superintendent to order a virtual
4 education day instead of closing a public school under certain circumstances;
5 requiring the county superintendent to notify a public school principal as soon as
6 possible after the county superintendent makes a certain decision; requiring a
7 principal who receives a certain notice to immediately notify students, parents, and
8 school staff of the implementation of a virtual education day; providing for the
9 content of a virtual education day; requiring a certain school implementing a virtual
10 education day to make accommodations for certain students and school staff;
11 requiring the county superintendent to notify the Garrett County Board of Education
12 of the decision to order a virtual education day for multiple consecutive school days;
13 requiring the county superintendent to arrange for the continued provision of certain
14 services under certain circumstances; requiring the county board to adopt a certain
15 policy; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to virtual
16 education days in Garrett County.

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Education
19 Section 7–103.2
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Education**

25 **7–103.2.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN GARRETT COUNTY.**

2 **(B) THE GARRETT COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT MAY ORDER A VIRTUAL**
3 **EDUCATION DAY INSTEAD OF CLOSING A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE EVENT OF:**

4 **(1) A NATURAL DISASTER;**

5 **(2) A CIVIC DISASTER;**

6 **(3) INCLEMENT WEATHER; OR**

7 **(4) ANY OTHER EVENT THAT WOULD OTHERWISE PREVENT NORMAL**
8 **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.**

9 **(C) (1) THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT SHALL NOTIFY A PUBLIC SCHOOL**
10 **PRINCIPAL OF THE DECISION TO ORDER A VIRTUAL EDUCATION DAY FOR THE**
11 **SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE DECISION IS MADE.**

12 **(2) A PRINCIPAL WHO RECEIVES NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL EDUCATION**
13 **DAY ORDERED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION IMMEDIATELY SHALL**
14 **NOTIFY THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND SCHOOL STAFF OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF**
15 **A VIRTUAL EDUCATION DAY.**

16 **(D) (1) A VIRTUAL EDUCATION DAY SHALL CONSIST OF EDUCATION**
17 **SERVICES, DELIVERED REMOTELY, THAT ARE AS CLOSE AS IS PRACTICABLE TO THE**
18 **EDUCATION SERVICES THAT WOULD HAVE OCCURRED IN PERSON HAD THE SCHOOL**
19 **BEEN OPEN.**

20 **(2) A SCHOOL IMPLEMENTING A VIRTUAL EDUCATION DAY SHALL**
21 **MAKE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOOL STAFF WHO DO NOT HAVE**
22 **EASY ACCESS TO THE INTERNET.**

23 **(E) (1) IF THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT DETERMINES IT IS NECESSARY**
24 **TO ORDER A VIRTUAL EDUCATION DAY FOR MULTIPLE CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL DAYS,**
25 **THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT SHALL NOTIFY THE GARRETT COUNTY BOARD OF**
26 **EDUCATION.**

27 **(2) IF A PUBLIC SCHOOL IS ORDERED TO IMPLEMENT A VIRTUAL**
28 **EDUCATION DAY FOR MULTIPLE CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL DAYS UNDER PARAGRAPH**
29 **(1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT SHALL ARRANGE, TO THE**
30 **EXTENT PRACTICABLE, FOR THE CONTINUED PROVISION OF ALL NORMAL SERVICES**
31 **REQUIRED UNDER THIS ARTICLE TO ALL STUDENTS WHO REQUIRE THE SERVICES,**
32 **INCLUDING MEAL SERVICES PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLES 6 AND 7**

1 OF THIS TITLE.

2 (F) THE GARRETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT A POLICY
3 TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2021.