



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: SB0076
TITLE: Legal Holiday - Maryland Emancipation Day - Establishment
DATE: 2/27/2020
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **support SB0076 with an amendment.**

By requiring Maryland Emancipation Day to be a holiday on which schools must be closed, this bill creates an additional challenge to developing the instructional calendar. Montgomery County Public Schools opposes additional constraints on the school calendar, as local jurisdictions should retain the ability to schedule closures that address local needs and priorities. There are many educational and operational considerations and objectives that must be balanced and coordinated in developing a school year calendar. Requiring increasing numbers of days for school closures increases the timeframe for the length of the school year, reduces the ability of the school system to adjust the calendar for local priorities, and can cause difficulties for families. **Amendment language should allow school systems flexibility in which holidays are observed.**

For these reasons, the Board **supports** this legislation **with an amendment** and urges a favorable report.