
By: **Delegate McKee**
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2006
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Number of School Days and School Hours - Increase**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the number of school days and minimum school hours
4 that a public school is required to be open for pupil attendance over a certain
5 period of time each year; making technical changes; and generally relating to
6 increasing the number of required school days and school hours in public
7 schools.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Education
10 Section 7-103
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Education**

16 7-103.

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

19 (1) (i) Shall be open for pupil attendance for at least [180 actual] THE
20 FOLLOWING NUMBER OF school days and [a] THE FOLLOWING minimum NUMBER of
21 [1,080] school hours during a 10-month period in each school year[;]:

22 1. FOR THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR, AT LEAST 190 SCHOOL
23 DAYS AND A MINIMUM OF 1,140 SCHOOL HOURS;

24 2. FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR, AT LEAST 200 SCHOOL
25 DAYS AND A MINIMUM OF 1,200 SCHOOL HOURS; AND

1 3. BEGINNING IN THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR AND EACH
2 YEAR THEREAFTER, AT LEAST 210 SCHOOL DAYS AND A MINIMUM OF 1,260 SCHOOL
3 HOURS; or

4 (ii) If normal school attendance is prevented because of conditions
5 described in subsection (b) of this section, shall be open for at least [1,080 hours] THE
6 MINIMUM NUMBER OF SCHOOL HOURS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION during
7 a 10-month period; and

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

10 (3) May not be open on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays in order to meet
11 the [180-day or 1,080-hour] SCHOOL DAY OR SCHOOL HOURS requirement of this
12 subsection.

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

16 (i) Adjustments in the length of the school year;

17 (ii) Exceptions from the requirement that the school year be
18 completed within a 10-month period;

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

20 (iv) Schools to be open on holidays.

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

23 (i) Natural disaster;

24 (ii) Civil disaster; or

25 (iii) Severe weather conditions.

26 (3) Education funding from State or local sources may not be reduced if
27 there are less than [180] THE REQUIRED NUMBER school days in any year because of
28 an approved application under this subsection.

29 (4) In case of emergency, the State Board may open schools on holidays.

30 (c) (1) The following days are public school holidays:

31 (i) Thanksgiving Day and the day after;

32 (ii) Christmas Eve and from then through January 1;

33 (iii) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;

- 1 (iv) Presidents' Day;
- 2 (v) The Friday before Easter and from then through the Monday
3 after Easter;
- 4 (vi) Memorial Day; and
- 5 (vii) Primary and general election days.

6 (2) If the federal and State observances of a holiday are on different
7 days, the board of education of each county shall determine which date shall be the
8 date of observance for the public schools within the county.

9 (3) The public schools shall devote a part of the day to appropriate
10 exercises for the following days:

- 11 (i) Washington's Birthday;
- 12 (ii) Lincoln's Birthday;
- 13 (iii) Veterans' Day;
- 14 (iv) Columbus Day;
- 15 (v) Arbor Day; and
- 16 (vi) Any other day of national significance.

17 (4) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the public
18 schools, in the following counties, may remain open and in session on primary and
19 general election days:

- 20 (i) Calvert;
- 21 (ii) Caroline;
- 22 (iii) Dorchester;
- 23 (iv) Kent;
- 24 (v) Talbot; and
- 25 (vi) Worcester.

26 (d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the State Board shall
27 divide the school year into the terms it considers appropriate.

28 (e) (1) The county boards of Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard, and
29 Montgomery counties, and the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore City, may
30 elect to operate one or more schools within the county or Baltimore City on a

1 year-round basis, provided that the [180-day] NUMBER OF SCHOOL DAYS and the
2 minimum hour requirements under SUBSECTION (A) OF this section are met.

3 (2) Nothing in this section precludes a county board from conducting a
4 year-round pilot study or program that is funded by the county board.

5 (f) Publicly funded prekindergarten programs are not subject to the
6 requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 July 1, 2006.