

# HOUSE BILL 655

F3

71r0563

---

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2007

Assigned to: Ways and Means

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – School Attendance**

3 **PG 406–07**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain principals or teachers in certain schools in  
5 Prince George's County to report certain information regarding student  
6 attendance; requiring certain individuals to take certain action and provide  
7 certain notice regarding certain school attendance at Prince George's County  
8 schools; requiring the Prince George's County Superintendent of Schools to  
9 provide certain information to the Prince George's County Board of Education  
10 regarding student attendance; establishing the School Attendance Review  
11 Board in the Prince George's County public school system; providing for the  
12 membership, terms, chair, and staffing of the Review Board; providing that the  
13 members of the Review Board shall serve without compensation or  
14 reimbursement; authorizing the Review Board to take certain action in certain  
15 cases; requiring the Review Board to develop certain strategies and evaluate  
16 and make certain recommendations regarding school attendance; requiring the  
17 County Superintendent to meet with the Review Board at certain times;  
18 requiring the Review Board to make certain reports; requiring the Review  
19 Board to post a certain agenda and certain minutes on a certain website;  
20 authorizing the Review Board to adopt certain rules and regulations; defining  
21 certain terms; and generally relating to school attendance and the School  
22 Attendance Review Board in the Prince George's County public school system.

23 BY adding to

24 Article – Education

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 3-1009 and 3-1010  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (2006 Replacement Volume)

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

6 **Article - Education**

7 **3-1009.**

8 (A) THE PRINCIPAL OR HEAD TEACHER OF EACH PUBLIC OR PRIVATE  
9 SCHOOL IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SHALL REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE  
10 COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT, THE SUPERVISOR OF STUDENT PERSONNEL, OR  
11 ANY OTHER OFFICIAL DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT THE  
12 NAME OF EACH CHILD ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL WHO HAS BEEN ABSENT OR  
13 IRREGULAR IN ATTENDANCE, WITHOUT LAWFUL EXCUSE, OR WHO SHOWS  
14 EVIDENCE OF MALADJUSTMENT, SO THAT THE CAUSES MAY BE STUDIED AND  
15 SOLUTIONS WORKED OUT.

16 (B) ON RECEIPT OF A REPORT FROM A PRINCIPAL OR HEAD TEACHER  
17 OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT A STUDENT HAS BEEN HABITUALLY TRUANT  
18 WITHOUT LAWFUL EXCUSE, THE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
19 SCHOOL SYSTEM:

20 (1) SHALL INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSE OF THE  
21 CHILD'S TRUANCY;

22 (2) SHALL, IN THE NATIVE LANGUAGE OF THE STUDENT'S  
23 PARENT OR GUARDIAN, NOTIFY THE STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN, BY  
24 FIRST-CLASS MAIL OR OTHER REASONABLE MEANS OF THE FOLLOWING:

25 (I) THE STUDENT IS TRUANT;

26 (II) THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN IS OBLIGATED TO COMPEL  
27 THE ATTENDANCE OF THE STUDENT AT SCHOOL;

28 (III) A PARENT OR GUARDIAN WHO FAILS TO MEET THIS  
29 OBLIGATION MAY BE IN VIOLATION OF § 7-301 OF THIS ARTICLE AND THE  
30 CONSEQUENCES OF THE VIOLATION;

1                   (IV) THE STUDENT MAY BE FOUND TO BE A CHILD IN NEED  
2 OF ASSISTANCE AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS FINDING;

3                   (V) THE STUDENT MAY BE SUBJECT TO DELINQUENCY  
4 PROCEEDINGS;

5                   (VI) ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE;  
6 AND

7                   (VII) THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN SHALL MEET WITH  
8 APPROPRIATE SCHOOL PERSONNEL TO DISCUSS SOLUTIONS TO THE STUDENT'S  
9 ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS WITHIN 10 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE; AND

10                  (3) SHALL, NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER THE REPORT THAT  
11 THE STUDENT IS HABITUALLY TRUANT, ASSEMBLE THE STUDENT'S SUPPORT  
12 TEAM AND ASSESS THE CAUSES OF THE STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS  
13 AND DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN THAT SHALL INCLUDE, AS NECESSARY:

14                   (I) COUNSELING;

15                   (II) TUTORING;

16                   (III) REFERRALS TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES INCLUDING  
17 SOCIAL, HEALTH, AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES;

18                   (IV) MENTORING;

19                   (V) EVALUATIONS; AND

20                   (VI) OTHER RESOURCES AS APPROPRIATE.

21                  (C) (1) FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION, NOTIFICATION, AND  
22 COUNSELING, THE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
23 MAY REFER THE STUDENT, THE STUDENT'S SUPPORT TEAM, AND THE  
24 STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW  
25 BOARD ESTABLISHED UNDER § 3-1010 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

26                  (2) IF A REFERRAL IS DEEMED APPROPRIATE, THE APPROPRIATE

1 **REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL NOTIFY THE STUDENT, THE**  
2 **STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN, AND MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT'S SUPPORT**  
3 **TEAM, IN WRITING, AS FOLLOWS:**

4 (I) **THE REASON FOR THE REFERRAL;**

5 (II) **THAT THE RECIPIENTS OF THE NOTICE ARE REQUIRED**  
6 **TO MEET WITH THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD;**

7 (III) **THE ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND CHAIRPERSON OF**  
8 **THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD; AND**

9 (IV) **THE DATE AND TIME OF THE MEETING.**

10 (D) **IF THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD DETERMINES THAT**  
11 **AVAILABLE COMMUNITY RESOURCES CAN RESOLVE THE ATTENDANCE ISSUE,**  
12 **THEN THE REVIEW BOARD SHALL DIRECT THE STUDENT, THE STUDENT'S**  
13 **PARENT OR GUARDIAN, OR THE STUDENT'S SUPPORT TEAM TO MAKE USE OF**  
14 **THOSE RESOURCES.**

15 (E) **FOLLOWING THE INVESTIGATION, COUNSELING, AND REFERRAL,**  
16 **AND ON A FINDING BY THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD THAT THE**  
17 **STUDENT AND THE STUDENT'S PARENT OR GUARDIAN HAS FAILED TO RESPOND**  
18 **TO THE DIRECTIVES OF THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD, THE**  
19 **APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM MAY NOTIFY:**

20 (1) **THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES THAT THE**  
21 **STUDENT HAS BEEN HABITUALLY TRUANT, WITHOUT LAWFUL EXCUSE;**

22 (2) **THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL DEPARTMENT THAT THE STUDENT**  
23 **HAS BEEN HABITUALLY TRUANT, WITHOUT LAWFUL EXCUSE, IF A COURT HAS**  
24 **GIVEN THE NOTICE AUTHORIZED BY § 3-819(B-1) OF THE COURTS ARTICLE;**  
25 **AND**

26 (3) **THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES THAT THE**  
27 **STUDENT HAS BEEN HABITUALLY TRUANT, WITHOUT LAWFUL EXCUSE, IF A**  
28 **COURT HAS GIVEN THE NOTICE AUTHORIZED BY § 3-8A-19(D)(5) OF THE**  
29 **COURTS ARTICLE.**

1           **(F) THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT, THE SUPERINTENDENT'S**  
2 **DESIGNEE, OR THE SUPERVISOR OF STUDENT PERSONNEL SHALL PROVIDE TO**  
3 **THE COUNTY BOARD FOR INCLUSION IN THE REPORT OF THE COUNTY BOARD**  
4 **UNDER § 7-304(F)(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE INFORMATION REGARDING THE**  
5 **NUMBER OF STUDENTS IDENTIFIED AS BEING HABITUALLY TRUANT.**

6 **3-1010.**

7           **(A) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT:**

8                   **(1) THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
9 **SHOULD DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO INCREASE AND MAINTAIN HIGH**  
10 **LEVELS OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE;**

11                   **(2) INTENSIVE GUIDANCE AND COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY**  
12 **SERVICES SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS THAT ARE HABITUALLY TRUANT;**  
13 **AND**

14                   **(3) THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD SHOULD**  
15 **COORDINATE THE UTILIZATION OF COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL RESOURCES TO**  
16 **REDUCE STUDENT TRUANCY AND DROPOUT RATES.**

17           **(B) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**  
18 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

19                   **(2) "REVIEW BOARD" MEANS THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**  
20 **REVIEW BOARD.**

21                   **(3) "STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM" MEANS:**

22                           **(I) A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS COMPOSED OF:**

- 23                                   **1. THE PARENTS OR GUARDIAN OF THE STUDENT;**
- 24                                   **2. NOT LESS THAN ONE TEACHER OF THE STUDENT;**
- 25                                   **3. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STUDENT'S SCHOOL**  
26 **WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM;**

1                   4.    **A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STUDENT'S SCHOOL**  
2 **WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF COMPREHENSIVE**  
3 **COMMUNITY RESOURCES OF THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH THE SCHOOL IS**  
4 **LOCATED;**

5                   5.    **THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR ON STAFF AT THE**  
6 **STUDENT'S SCHOOL; AND**

7                   6.    **THE STUDENT, WHEN APPROPRIATE; OR**

8                   (ii) **THE STUDENT'S INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (IEP)**  
9 **TEAM.**

10           (c) **THERE IS A SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD IN THE PRINCE**  
11 **GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

12           (d) **THE REVIEW BOARD CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

13                   (1) **ONE PARENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S**  
14 **COUNTY COUNCIL OF PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS;**

15                   (2) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNTY BOARD;**

16                   (3) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT;**

17                   (4) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LOCAL WELFARE**  
18 **DEPARTMENT;**

19                   (5) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF COMMUNITY-BASED YOUTH**  
20 **CENTERS OR YOUTH SERVICES;**

21                   (6) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL**  
22 **HEALTH SERVICES;**

23                   (7) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY**  
24 **ORGANIZATION CHARGED WITH SAFEGUARDING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND**

25                   (8) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNTY BOARD GUIDANCE**  
26 **PERSONNEL.**

1           **(E) (1) THE COUNTY BOARD REPRESENTATIVES SHALL BE**  
2 **APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT.**

3           **(2) ALL OTHER PERSONS AND GROUP REPRESENTATIVES SHALL**  
4 **BE APPOINTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS.**

5           **(F) THE REVIEW BOARD SHALL SELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG THE**  
6 **MEMBERS WHO IS NOT EMPLOYED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OR THE MARYLAND**  
7 **STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**

8           **(G) (1) EACH MEMBER SERVES FOR A TERM OF 3 YEARS.**

9           **(2) A MEMBER WHOSE TERM HAS EXPIRED SHALL REMAIN ON**  
10 **THE REVIEW BOARD UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED.**

11           **(3) A MEMBER SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION AND**  
12 **WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL OR OTHER EXPENSES.**

13           **(H) THE CHAIR SHALL CONVENE THE REVIEW BOARD AT LEAST ONCE A**  
14 **MONTH DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.**

15           **(I) THE REVIEW BOARD SHALL:**

16           **(1) REVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RECORDS IN THE**  
17 **COUNTY AND IDENTIFY SCHOOLS WITH HIGH TRUANCY AND DROPOUT RATES;**

18           **(2) IDENTIFY ISSUES AND FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO HIGH**  
19 **RATES OF TRUANCY AND DROPOUTS;**

20           **(3) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNTY**  
21 **SUPERINTENDENT REGARDING THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO STUDENTS AND**  
22 **THE NEED OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES; AND**

23           **(4) DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO:**

24           **(I) REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DROPOUTS IN THE COUNTY**  
25 **PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM BY PROMOTING INTERAGENCY COOPERATION;**

1                   **(II) DIVERT STUDENTS WITH ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS**  
2 **FROM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO AGENCIES WITH SUCCESSFUL**  
3 **COMMUNITY-BASED AND SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS; AND**

4                   **(III) REDUCE DUPLICATION OF THE SERVICES OF STATE**  
5 **AND COUNTY AGENCIES SERVING HIGH-RISK YOUTH, INCLUDING YOUTH WITH**  
6 **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS.**

7           **(J) (1) THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
8 **SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE REVIEW BOARD.**

9                   **(2) THE REVIEW BOARD, THROUGH ITS STAFF, SHALL POST ON**  
10 **THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM WEBSITE:**

11                   **(I) AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE A SCHEDULED MEETING DATE**  
12 **OF THE REVIEW BOARD, THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING; AND**

13                   **(II) WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER A MEETING OF THE REVIEW**  
14 **BOARD IS HELD, THE MINUTES OF EACH MEETING.**

15           **(K) THE REVIEW BOARD SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND**  
16 **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNTY BOARD AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT**  
17 **ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.**

18           **(L) THE REVIEW BOARD MAY ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
19 **NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.**

20           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2007.