

HOUSE BILL 1486

J1, O4, F1

0lr3160

By: **Delegates Gutierrez, Rice, Ali, Barkley, Barnes, Bobo, Bronrott, Carr, Carter, Frick, Griffith, Howard, Hucker, Ivey, Kaiser, Kirk, Krysiak, Lee, Manno, Mizeur, Montgomery, Nathan-Pulliam, Pena-Melnyk, Ramirez, Reznik, Ross, Schuh, Sophocleus, Stukes, Taylor, V. Turner, Valderrama, Waldstreicher, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2010

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Student Attendance – Preventing Chronic Absenteeism**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain schools to maintain a record of the daily
4 attendance of certain students using a certain identifier, calculate and maintain
5 a certain record of certain student attendance information, and submit a certain
6 report to the county board of education that includes certain student attendance
7 information at certain times each year; requiring each county board of
8 education to calculate and maintain a certain record of certain attendance
9 information; requiring a county board to report certain information to the State
10 Board of Education at least a certain number of times each year; requiring each
11 county board to develop and implement a certain attendance incentive action
12 plan that includes certain information; defining certain terms; and generally
13 relating to tracking and reporting student attendance in public schools.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Education

16 Section 4–127

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Education**

22 **4–127.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**
2 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

3 **(2) “CHRONIC ABSENCE” MEANS A FAILURE TO ATTEND SCHOOL**
4 **FOR EXCUSED AND NONEXCUSED REASONS FOR 20 OR MORE DAYS IN A SCHOOL**
5 **YEAR.**

6 **(3) “HIGH ATTENDANCE” MEANS MAINTAINING DAILY**
7 **ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL WHILE MISSING ONLY 4 DAYS OR LESS FOR EXCUSED**
8 **OR NONEXCUSED REASONS IN A SCHOOL YEAR.**

9 **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN**
10 **KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE.**

11 **(C) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL REQUIRE EACH SCHOOL WITHIN THE**
12 **JURISDICTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD TO:**

13 **(1) MAINTAIN A RECORD OF THE DAILY ATTENDANCE OF EACH**
14 **STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL USING THE UNIQUE STUDENT IDENTIFIER**
15 **NUMBER ASSIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT;**

16 **(2) CALCULATE AND MAINTAIN A RECORD OF THE NUMBER OF**
17 **STUDENTS WHO ARE EITHER CHRONICALLY ABSENT OR HAVE HIGH**
18 **ATTENDANCE BROKEN DOWN BY THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:**

19 **(I) GRADE LEVEL;**

20 **(II) RACE AND ETHNICITY;**

21 **(III) LIMITED-ENGLISH PROFICIENCY STATUS;**

22 **(IV) SPECIAL EDUCATION STATUS; AND**

23 **(V) ANY OTHER FEDERAL OR STATE DEFINED SUBGROUP;**

24 **AND**

25 **(3) SUBMIT TO THE COUNTY BOARD A REPORT ON THE**
26 **INFORMATION MAINTAINED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION FOR EACH GRADING**
27 **PERIOD.**

28 **(D) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL CALCULATE AND MAINTAIN A**
29 **RECORD OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE**
30 **COUNTY BOARD WHO ARE EITHER CHRONICALLY ABSENT OR HAVE A HIGH**
31 **ATTENDANCE BASED ON THE REPORTS OF EACH SCHOOL SUBMITTED TO THE**

1 COUNTY BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, IDENTIFIED BY THE
2 FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- 3 (I) TYPE OF SCHOOL;
- 4 (II) GRADE LEVEL;
- 5 (III) RACE AND ETHNICITY;
- 6 (IV) LIMITED-ENGLISH PROFICIENCY STATUS;
- 7 (V) SPECIAL EDUCATION STATUS; AND
- 8 (VI) ANY OTHER FEDERAL OR STATE DEFINED SUBGROUP.

9 (2) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL REPORT THE INFORMATION
10 COLLECTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO THE STATE
11 BOARD AT LEAST ONE TIME EACH YEAR.

12 (E) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN
13 ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE ACTION PLAN TO:

14 (I) ENCOURAGE STUDENTS WITH CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM
15 TO ATTEND SCHOOL REGULARLY; AND

16 (II) INFORM STUDENTS WITH CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND
17 THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF THOSE STUDENTS OF:

18 1. LEGAL ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS AND
19 LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF CHRONIC SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM; AND

20 2. THE ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF
21 REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

22 (2) THE ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE ACTION PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:

- 23 (I) CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM PREVENTION STRATEGIES;
- 24 (II) EARLY INTERVENTION STRATEGIES;
- 25 (III) POSITIVE ATTENDANCE CAMPAIGNS;
- 26 (IV) PARENTAL OUTREACH; AND

1 **(v) STUDENT ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES.**

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
3 July 1, 2010.