

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 410 (Senator Peters, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Public School Holidays - Veterans Day

This bill requires Veterans Day to be a public school holiday, rather than a day on which public schools are required to devote part of the day to appropriate exercises.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not affect State operations.

Local Effect: None. Adding an additional holiday to the public school calendar does alter the number of days that schools are required to remain in session

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Public schools must be open for at least 180 days and 1,080 school hours during a 10-month period. However, under certain conditions (a natural disaster, civil disaster, and severe weather conditions), schools only have to be open for 1,080 school hours.

The State has designated several days as public school holidays. They include the following:

- Thanksgiving Day and the day after;
- Christmas Eve through January 1;
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;

- Presidents' Day;
- Good Friday and Easter Monday;
- Memorial Day; and
- primary and general election days for most counties.

Public schools are required to devote a part of the day to appropriate exercises for five days of national significance including Veterans Day. Veterans Day is a holiday for State employees and is 1 of 11 mandatory bank holidays.

Background: Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all who served honorably in the military – in wartime or in peacetime. It is observed on November 11 because that day marked the end of hostilities for World War I in 1918. The day was known as Armistice Day until 1954.

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) advises that Veterans Day is addressed in the State curriculum. MSDE, in conjunction with the Governor's office, produced a resource to assist teachers as they implement Veterans Day activities called "Lessons Learned," which includes a DVD, CDROM, and print materials. The resource was created in 2004 and is still requested by teachers.

MSDE advises that four local school systems (Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St Mary's counties) were closed on Veterans Day in 2009.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 276 (Delegate Riley, *et al.*) - Ways and Means.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Kent County, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

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mpc/mwc

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