

HOUSE BILL 542

F1
HB 191/11 – W&M

2lr2356

By: **Delegates Gutierrez, Barkley, Bobo, Carr, Carter, Cullison, Feldman, Frick, Frush, Guzzone, Haynes, Holmes, Howard, Hucker, Ivey, A. Kelly, Kramer, Lee, Luedtke, A. Miller, Mitchell, Nathan–Pulliam, Niemann, Pena–Melnyk, Proctor, Reznik, B. Robinson, S. Robinson, Sophocleus, Stukes, V. Turner, Waldstreicher, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Education

17 Section 4–127

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 4-127.

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

4 (2) "CHRONIC ABSENCE" MEANS A FAILURE TO ATTEND SCHOOL
5 FOR EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED REASONS FOR 20 OR MORE DAYS IN A SCHOOL
6 YEAR.

7 (3) "HIGH ATTENDANCE" MEANS MAINTAINING DAILY
8 ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL WHILE MISSING ONLY 4 DAYS OR LESS FOR EXCUSED
9 OR UNEXCUSED REASONS IN A SCHOOL YEAR.

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

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

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

17 (2) CALCULATE AND MAINTAIN A RECORD OF THE NUMBER OF
18 STUDENTS WHO EITHER ARE CHRONICALLY ABSENT OR HAVE HIGH
19 ATTENDANCE, IDENTIFIED BY THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

20 (I) GRADE LEVEL;

21 (II) RACE AND ETHNICITY;

22 (III) LIMITED-ENGLISH PROFICIENCY STATUS;

23 (IV) SPECIAL EDUCATION STATUS; AND

24 (V) ANY OTHER FEDERAL OR STATE DEFINED SUBGROUP;
25 AND

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

1 **(D) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL CALCULATE AND MAINTAIN A**
2 **RECORD OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE**
3 **COUNTY BOARD WHO EITHER ARE CHRONICALLY ABSENT OR HAVE HIGH**
4 **ATTENDANCE BASED ON THE REPORTS OF EACH SCHOOL SUBMITTED TO THE**
5 **COUNTY BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, IDENTIFIED BY THE**
6 **FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:**

7 **(I) TYPE OF SCHOOL;**

8 **(II) GRADE LEVEL;**

9 **(III) RACE AND ETHNICITY;**

10 **(IV) LIMITED-ENGLISH PROFICIENCY STATUS;**

11 **(V) SPECIAL EDUCATION STATUS; AND**

12 **(VI) ANY OTHER FEDERAL OR STATE DEFINED SUBGROUP.**

13 **(2) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL REPORT THE INFORMATION**
14 **COLLECTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO THE STATE**
15 **BOARD AT LEAST ONE TIME EACH YEAR.**

16 **(E) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN**
17 **ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE ACTION PLAN TO:**

18 **(I) ENCOURAGE STUDENTS WITH CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM**
19 **TO ATTEND SCHOOL REGULARLY; AND**

20 **(II) INFORM STUDENTS WITH CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND**
21 **THE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF THOSE STUDENTS OF:**

22 **1. LEGAL ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS AND**
23 **LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF CHRONIC SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM; AND**

24 **2. THE ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF**
25 **REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.**

26 **(2) THE ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE ACTION PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:**

27 **(I) CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM PREVENTION STRATEGIES;**

28 **(II) EARLY INTERVENTION STRATEGIES;**

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1 **(III) POSITIVE ATTENDANCE CAMPAIGNS;**

2 **(IV) PARENTAL OUTREACH; AND**

3 **(V) STUDENT ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES.**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 July 1, 2012.