

HOUSE BILL 803

F3

2lr0583

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

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2012

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – Board of Education – Operation of Schools –**
3 **Year–Round Basis**

4 **PG 405–12**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Prince George's County Board of Education to
6 operate one or more schools within the county on a year–round basis under
7 certain circumstances; and generally relating to the operation of one or more
8 schools in Prince George's County on a year–round basis.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 7–103
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Education**

17 7–103.

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

20 (1) (i) Shall be open for pupil attendance for at least 180 actual
21 school days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours during a 10–month period in each
22 school year; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) If normal school attendance is prevented because of
2 conditions described in subsection (b) of this section, shall be open for at least 1,080
3 hours during a 10-month period;

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

6 (3) May not be open on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays in order to
7 meet the 180-day or 1,080-hour requirement of this subsection.

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

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

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

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

15 (iv) Schools to be open on holidays.

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

18 (i) Natural disaster;

19 (ii) Civil disaster; or

20 (iii) Severe weather conditions.

21 (3) Education funding from State or local sources may not be reduced
22 if there are less than 180 school days in any year because of an approved application
23 under this subsection.

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

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

27 (i) Thanksgiving Day and the day after;

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

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

- 1 (iv) Presidents' Day;
- 2 (v) The Friday before Easter and from then through the
3 Monday 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.

1 (e) (1) The county boards of Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard,
2 [and] Montgomery, **AND PRINCE GEORGE'S** counties, and the Board of School
3 Commissioners of Baltimore City, may elect to operate one or more schools within the
4 county or Baltimore City on a year-round basis, provided that the 180-day and the
5 minimum hour requirements under this section are met.

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

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

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