

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 803  
Ways and Means

(Prince George's County Delegation)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Prince George's County - Board of Education - Operation of Schools - Year-  
Round Basis  
PG 405-12

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This bill adds Prince George's County to the list of counties in which the county board of education may elect to operate one or more schools on a year-round basis, provided that the 180-day and minimum-hour requirements that apply to all public schools are met by any school that operates on a year-round basis.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Prince George's County expenditures are not directly affected since the bill only authorizes and does not require the operation of public schools on a year-round basis.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The State Board of Education must divide the school year into the terms it considers appropriate. Generally, public schools must be open for 180 days and 1,080 school hours during a 10-month period. Under certain conditions (a natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions), schools only have to be open for 1,080 school hours. The local boards of education for Baltimore City and Allegany,

Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard, and Montgomery counties are authorized to operate one or more public schools on a year-round basis, provided that the 180-day and the minimum-hour requirements are met. In addition, any local board may conduct a year-round pilot study or program that is locally funded.

**Background:** Prince George's County advises that the number of schools, if any, which would transition to year-round operations would be subject to negotiation among the county government, the local school system, and teacher unions. Prince George's County indicates that year-round schools would likely be initiated as a pilot program that may involve approximately six low-performing schools.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The bill authorizes, but does not require, operation of some schools in Prince George's County on a year-round basis. Therefore, Prince George's County expenditures are not directly affected.

The required number of school days and hours in a year for any school operated on a year-round basis is the same as for schools not operated on a year-round basis. However, if Prince George's County implements a year-round policy for some of its public schools, expenditures related to personnel, administration, and the maintenance and operation of school buildings may increase. The level of expenditures associated with year-round public schools will depend on what particular plan is agreed upon and implemented.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 13, 2012  
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