

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 620
Ways and Means

(Delegate Adams, *et al.*)

Elementary and Secondary Education - Required Number of School Days -
Repeal

This bill repeals the minimum number of school days (180) that a public school must be open for pupil attendance in a school year while maintaining the 1,080-school-hour minimum during a 10-month period. Education funding from State and local sources may not be reduced if there are less than 1,080 school hours in any year because of a State Board of Education approved application permitting (1) adjustment in the length of a school year; (2) exceptions from the requirement that the school year be completed within a 10-month period; (3) adjustments in the length of a school day; or (4) schools to be open on holidays. The State board must grant a waiver from compliance with the required minimum number of school hours for a county that submits evidence of a collective bargaining agreement that is in effect by July 1, 2016, and uses the former minimum number of school days requirement to determine various work requirements and benefits.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: State finances are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill affords each local board of education increased flexibility in determining its annual schedule and in adjusting that schedule in response to unanticipated circumstances. Because the 1,080-hour minimum is generally maintained, annual cost savings are expected to be minimal.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Public schools must be open for at least 180 days and 1,080 school hours (1,170 hours for high schools) during a 10-month period. However, under certain conditions (*i.e.*, a natural disaster, civil disaster, and severe weather conditions), the State Board of Education may permit a local board of education to make adjustments to the length of the school day and school year, as well as exceptions to the 10-month period limit.

In case of emergency, the State Board of Education may open schools on holidays. The State has designated several days as public school holidays.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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min/rhh

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