

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 996  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Beidle, *et al.*)

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Education - Public School Holidays - Easter Monday

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This bill repeals the requirement that the Monday after Easter is a public school holiday. Instead, each local board of education is authorized to designate the Monday after Easter as a public school holiday.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None. The option to have public schools open on the Monday after Easter does not alter the minimum number of school days and school hours that public schools must be open.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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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. They include the following:

- Thanksgiving Day and the day after;
- Christmas Eve through January 1;
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;
- Presidents' Day;
- the Friday before Easter through the Monday after Easter;
- Memorial Day; and
- primary and general election days for most counties.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2016  
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