

Chapter 34

(Senate Bill 729)

AN ACT concerning

County Boards of Education – Length of School Year – Adjustments

FOR the purpose of authorizing a county board of education to extend the length of the school year for up to 5 *school* days ~~and~~ beyond a certain date without approval from the State Board of Education; requiring a county board to submit a written application to the State Board for permission to increase the length of the school year for more than a certain number of school days in accordance with a certain provision of law or to decrease the length of the school year; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to adjustments to the length of the school year and county boards of education.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7–103(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7–103(b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

7–103.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) [Adjustments] **THE FOLLOWING ADJUSTMENTS:**

1. AN INCREASE in the length of the school year FOR MORE SCHOOL DAYS THAN THE NUMBER OF DAYS EXTENDED BY A COUNTY BOARD UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION; OR

2. A DECREASE IN THE LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR;

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

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

(iv) Schools to be open on holidays.

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

(i) Natural disaster;

(ii) Civil disaster; or

(iii) Severe weather conditions.

(3) A COUNTY BOARD MAY EXTEND THE LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR UP TO 5 SCHOOL DAYS ~~AND BEYOND JUNE 15~~ WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM THE STATE BOARD.

[(3)] (4) Education funding from State or local sources may not be reduced if there are less than 180 school days in any year because of an approved application under **PARAGRAPH (1)(I)2** OF this subsection.

[(4)] (5) In case of emergency, the State Board may open schools on holidays.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act ~~shall take effect July 1, 2018~~ is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved by the Governor, April 10, 2018.