

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 313  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Mautz, *et al.*)

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Education - Commemoration - Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001

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This bill requires public schools to devote a part of the school day to appropriate exercises that commemorate the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill is directed at local school systems.

**Local Effect:** Local school systems can devote a part of the school day to appropriate exercises that commemorate the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, using existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** The public schools must devote a part of the day to appropriate exercises for the following days: Washington's Birthday; Lincoln's Birthday; Veterans' Day; Columbus Day; Arbor Day; and any other day of national significance.

**Background:** On September 11, 2001, there were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the terrorist group al-Qaeda on the United States. During the attack, four passenger airliners were hijacked by 19 al-Qaeda terrorists. Two of the airplanes crashed into the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center complex in New York City. Within an hour and 42 minutes, both 110-floor buildings collapsed. A third plane crashed into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense,

in Arlington County, Virginia. The fourth plane, United Airlines Flight 93, was initially steered toward Washington, DC, but crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after its passengers tried to overcome the hijackers. The attacks killed 2,996 people. The attacks are also notable for being the single deadliest incident for firefighters and law enforcement officers in the history of the United States, with 343 and 72 killed, respectively.

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum has partnered with the New York City Department of Education and the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education to develop a set of 9/11 [lesson plans](#) for kindergarten through grade 12. There are also other age-appropriate lesson plans available.

**Local Expenditures:** Local school systems can devote a part of the school day to appropriate exercises that commemorate the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, using existing resources. Given the sensitive nature of the topic, some local school systems may choose to provide extra training to teachers on age-appropriate exercises. Any training can be given using existing resources.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Carroll, Harford, Montgomery, and Queen Anne's counties; Maryland State Department of Education; National September 11 Memorial & Museum; Department of Legislative Services

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