

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 553
Ways and Means

(Delegate Chang)

County Boards of Education - Length of School Year - Adjustments

This bill authorizes a local board of education to extend the school year for up to five days without approval from the State Board of Education. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local school board expenditures increase, likely minimally, for those school boards that choose to extend the length of the school year. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Public schools must be open for at least 180 days and 1,080 school hours at elementary and middle schools and 1,170 hours at high schools during a 10-month period. However, a local board of education may apply to the State Board of Education for a waiver from these provisions of State law; the application must describe a demonstrated effort by the local board to comply with State law. In response, the State Board of Education may permit adjustments in the length of the school year (both increases and decreases), exceptions from the 10-month period requirement, adjustments in the length of the school day, and schools to be open on holidays.

These adjustments may be granted only if normal school attendance is prevented because of natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions. The State has designated

several days as public school holidays. The public schools must devote a part of some designated days to exercises that are appropriate to the day.

On August 31, 2016, the Governor issued Executive Order 01.01.2016.09 (later amended by Executive Order 01.01.2016.13) requiring, with few exceptions, the local boards of education to open schools for student attendance no earlier than the Tuesday following the Labor Day holiday and to conclude the school year no later than June 15, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.

Local Expenditures: The bill authorizes, but does not require, a local school system to extend the length of the school year. Local school systems that decide to extend the length of the school year by up to five days will realize increased operational costs, including increased expenditures for hourly employees. The impact is anticipated to be minimal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 729 (Senator King, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Baltimore, Carroll, Montgomery and Queen Anne's Counties; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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