HOUSE BILL 599

By: Delegate Griffith
Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Harford County – Board of Education – Limitations on Virtual Meetings

FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Harford County Board of Education from holding a meeting virtually on a day that teachers must teach students in person or school employees must report to work in school buildings except under certain circumstances; and generally relating to meetings of the Harford County Board of Education.

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 3–6A–06
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

3–6A–06.

(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD MAY NOT BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON A DAY THAT THE COUNTY BOARD requires:

(1) PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY TO BE OPEN FOR IN–PERSON INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS;

(2) TEACHERS IN THE COUNTY TO PROVIDE IN–PERSON INSTRUCTION TO STUDENTS; OR

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
3  (3) **School employees to report to work in school buildings.**

  (B) **The county board may hold a meeting virtually if:**

    (1) **On the day the meeting is scheduled, teachers and other school employees for all public schools in the county are not required to report to work in school buildings; or**

    (2) **The governor or the county executive has declared a state of emergency that limits the size of indoor gatherings.**

  (C) **Notwithstanding subsections (A) and (B) of this section, the county board shall ensure that members of the public may attend each open session of the board virtually.**

**SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act 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.