

HOUSE BILL 1354

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4lr2503

By: **Delegates Howard, Arentz, Buckel, Griffith, Hartman, Hornberger, Kipke, McComas, T. Morgan, Rose, and Tomlinson**
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Veterans’ Day – Excused Student Absence**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring public schools to excuse any student’s absence from school
4 for observance of Veterans’ Day; and generally relating to excused absences for public
5 school students.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Education
8 Section 7–103(c)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Education**

14 7–103.

15 (c) (1) The following days are public school holidays:

16 (i) Thanksgiving Day and the day after;

17 (ii) Christmas Eve and from then through January 1;

18 (iii) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;

19 (iv) Presidents’ Day;

20 (v) The Friday before Easter and from then through the Monday

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 after Easter;

2 (vi) Memorial Day; and

3 (vii) Primary and general election days.

4 (2) If the federal and State observances of a holiday are on different days,
5 the board of education of each county shall determine which date shall be the date of
6 observance for the public schools within the county.

7 (3) The public schools shall devote a part of at least one day to appropriate
8 exercises for each of the following:

9 (i) Washington's Birthday;

10 (ii) Lincoln's Birthday;

11 (iii) Veterans' Day;

12 (iv) Columbus Day;

13 (v) Arbor Day;

14 (vi) Black History Month, with an emphasis on Harriet Tubman and
15 Frederick Douglass and the contributions they made in the fight against slavery; and

16 (vii) Any other day of national significance.

17 **(4) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE,**
18 **PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHALL EXCUSE ANY STUDENT'S ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL FOR**
19 **OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS' DAY.**

20 **[(4)] (5)** Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the public
21 schools, in the following counties, may remain open and in session on primary and general
22 election days:

23 (i) Calvert;

24 (ii) Caroline;

25 (iii) Dorchester;

26 (iv) Kent;

27 (v) Talbot; and

28 (vi) Worcester.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2024.