

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1354
Ways and Means

(Delegate Howard, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Public Schools - Veterans' Day - Authorized Public School Holiday

This bill authorizes each local board of education to designate Veterans' Day as a public school holiday. If the local board has not designated Veterans' Day as a public school holiday, consistent with current law, the public schools must devote a part of at least one day to appropriate exercises for Veterans' Day. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None. The bill authorizes, but does not require, local designation of Veterans' Day as a public school holiday. Further, local school systems may, under current law, choose to close public schools on Veterans' Day.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Veterans' Day is not designated as a public school holiday under current law. State public schools must devote a part of at least one day to appropriate exercises for each of the following: Washington's Birthday; Lincoln's Birthday; Veterans' Day; Columbus Day; Arbor Day; Black History Month, as specified; and any other day of national significance. **Exhibit 1 shows public school holidays, as well as 11 bank holidays, 17 legal holidays, and 13 State employee holidays, recognized by the State.** Veterans' Day is a bank holiday, legal holiday, and State employee holiday.

Exhibit 1
Holidays in the State

	<u>School Holiday</u>	<u>Bank Holiday</u>	<u>Legal Holiday</u>	<u>State Employee Holiday</u>
New Year's Day	X	X	X	X
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday	X	X	X	X
February 12 for Lincoln's Birthday			X	
Washington's Birthday*	X	X	X	X
March 25 for Maryland Day			X	
Good Friday**	X	X	X	
Easter Monday	X			
Memorial Day	X	X	X	X
Juneteenth National Independence Day			X	X
Independence Day		X	X	X
Labor Day		X	X	X
September 12 for Defenders' Day			X	
Columbus Day		X	X	X
General Election Days	X		X	X
Veterans' Day		X	X	X
Thanksgiving Day	X	X	X	X
Day after Thanksgiving Day***	X		X	X
Christmas Day	X	X	X	X

* Also known as Presidents' Day, celebrated on the third Monday of February.

** As there is no corresponding federal holiday, a banking institution may remain open.

*** Also known as American Indian Heritage Day.

Note: Christmas Eve through New Year's Day are public school holidays, along with primary election days (with exemptions in certain counties).

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Comments: Veterans' Day, November 11, fell on a Saturday in 2023. The Department of Legislative Services is aware of five local school systems (Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and Talbot counties) that closed schools on Friday, November 10, and five local school systems (Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Somerset, and Washington counties) that scheduled early dismissal on that day.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Local school system calendars; Baltimore City Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Prince George’s County Public Schools; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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