

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1267

(Delegate Howard, *et al.*)

Ways and Means

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, 2025.**

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: Statewide public school holidays include Thanksgiving Day and the following day; Christmas Eve through January 1; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Presidents' Day; the Friday before Easter through the following Monday; Memorial Day; and primary and general election days.

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.

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, 2023, 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 been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1354 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2025
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