

Chapter 811

(House Bill 1457)

AN ACT concerning

Washington County – Juveniles – Truancy Reduction Pilot Program

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Circuit Administrative Judge of the Fourth Circuit to establish a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program in the juvenile court in Washington County; and generally relating to Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 3–8C–01
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 3–8C–02
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

3–8C–01.

This subtitle applies only:

(1) In a county in which the circuit administrative judge has established a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program under § 3–8C–02 of this subtitle; and

(2) To the extent that funds are provided in an annual State budget for a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program.

3–8C–02.

(a) (1) The Circuit Administrative Judge of the First Circuit may establish a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program in one or more of the juvenile courts in Dorchester County, Somerset County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County.

(2) The Circuit Administrative Judge of the Second Circuit may establish a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program in the juvenile courts in Kent County and Talbot County.

(3) The Circuit Administrative Judge of the Third Circuit may establish a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program in the juvenile court in Harford County.

(4) THE CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE FOURTH CIRCUIT MAY ESTABLISH A TRUANCY REDUCTION PILOT PROGRAM IN THE JUVENILE COURT IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

~~[(4)]~~ **(5)** The Circuit Administrative Judge of the Sixth Circuit may establish a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program in the juvenile court in Frederick County.

~~[(5)]~~ **(6)** The Circuit Administrative Judge of the Seventh Circuit may establish a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program in the juvenile court in Prince George's County.

(b) After consultation with the administrative judges of the first, second, third, **FOURTH**, sixth, and seventh circuits, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland may accept a gift or grant to implement the pilot programs in each respective circuit.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, May 26, 2026.