

SB0218/553729/1

BY: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 218
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 6, after “time” insert “, subject to certain requirements”; after line 7, insert:

“BY renumbering

Article – Education

Section 7–14A–02 through 7–14A–09

to be Section 7–14A–03 through 7–14A–10, respectively

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)”;

in line 15, strike “and 7–14A–02”; and after line 17, insert:

“BY adding to

Article - Education

Section 7–14A–02

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7–14A–03 and 7–14A–10

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

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On page 1, before line 18, insert:

“SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7-14A-02 through 7-14A-09 of Article – Education of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-14A-03 through 7-14A-10, respectively.”;

in line 18, strike “1.” and substitute “2. AND”; in the same line, after “IT” insert “FURTHER”; and in the same line, strike “BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND”.

On page 2, in line 2, after “SUPERINTENDENT” insert “UNDER § 7-14A-02 OF THIS SUBTITLE”; after line 9, insert:

“7-14A-02.

(A) ON WRITTEN REQUEST OF A COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OR A DETERMINATION BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT THAT IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NECESSARY, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT MAY DECLARE A PROLONGED STATE OF EMERGENCY THAT PREVENTS REGULAR, IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR AT LEAST 14 CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL DAYS DUE TO:

(1) A NATURAL DISASTER;

(2) A CIVIL DISASTER;

(3) A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY; OR

(4) A SPECIFIC SECURITY THREAT IDENTIFIED BY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

(B) IN MAKING A DECLARATION OF A PROLONGED STATE OF EMERGENCY UNDER THIS SECTION, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL:

(1) CONSULT THE GOVERNOR, AND IF APPROPRIATE:

(i) THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT;

(ii) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE; OR

(iii) THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH;

(2) ISSUE THE DECLARATION IN WRITING;

(3) INDICATE IN THE DECLARATION:

(i) THE NATURE OF THE EMERGENCY; AND

(ii) THE SPECIFIC LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS THREATENED OR AFFECTED, UNLESS THE EMERGENCY IS STATEWIDE IN NATURE; AND

(4) DISSEMINATE THE DECLARATION PROMPTLY BY MEANS CALCULATED TO PUBLICIZE THE CONTENTS OF THE DECLARATION.

(C) UNLESS THE EMERGENCY IS STATEWIDE IN NATURE, A DECLARATION OF A PROLONGED STATE OF EMERGENCY MAY NOT APPLY TO A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT IS NOT IDENTIFIED IN THE WRITTEN DECLARATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B)(3)(II) OF THIS SECTION.

(Over)

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(D) NOTHING IN THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT OR INTERFERE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH UNDER TITLE 18 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE IN THE EVENT OF A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.;

and in line 10, strike “7-14A-02.” and substitute “7-14A-03.”.

On page 2 in lines 11 and 16, and on page 3 in line 1, in each instance, after “emergency” insert “AFFECTING THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM”.

On page 3, strike in their entirety lines 17 through 20, inclusive; after line 20, insert:

“7-14A-10.

The State Board shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this subtitle, including establishing minimum criteria for the adoption and implementation of virtual education plans by a county board during a prolonged state of emergency AFFECTING THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.”;

and in line 21, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”.