

HOUSE BILL 1084

F3

EMERGENCY BILL

6lr1006

By: **Montgomery County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 18, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County – County Board of Education – School Operation**
3 **Requirements**

4 **MC 14–26**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Montgomery County Board of Education to require
6 public schools within the county to be open for pupil attendance for a minimum
7 number of actual school days or a minimum number of school hours instead of both
8 under certain circumstances; requiring a school open fewer than a certain number of
9 hours or days to provide certain employees an opportunity to make up lost wages;
10 requiring the county board to report to the State Department of Education and the
11 General Assembly on elementary, middle, and high schools open fewer than a certain
12 number of hours or days; and generally relating to school operation requirements
13 and the Montgomery County Board of Education.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Education
16 Section 7–103(a), (g), and (h)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
20 Article – Education
21 Section 7–103(b) and (d) through (f)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

2 BY adding to

3 Article – Education

4 Section 7–103(g)

5 Annotated Code of Maryland

6 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

8 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

9 **Article – Education**

10 7–103.

11 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), (e), (f), [and] (g), **AND (H)** of this section,
12 each public school under the jurisdiction of a county board:

13 (1) (i) Shall be open for pupil attendance for at least 180 actual school
14 days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours during a 10–month period in each school year;
15 or

16 (ii) If normal school attendance is prevented because of conditions
17 described in subsection (b) of this section, shall be open for at least 1,080 hours during a
18 10–month period;

19 (2) Shall be open for pupil attendance a minimum of 3 hours during each
20 school day; and

21 (3) May not be open on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays in order to meet
22 the 180–day or 1,080–hour requirement of this subsection.

23 (b) (1) If a county board submits a written application to the State Board that
24 describes a demonstrated effort by the county board to comply with subsection (a) of this
25 section, the State Board may permit:

26 (i) The following adjustments:

27 1. An increase in the length of the school year; or

28 2. A decrease in the length of the school year;

29 (ii) Exceptions from the requirement that the school year be
30 completed within a 10–month period;

31 (iii) Adjustments in the length of the school day; and

1 (iv) Schools to be open on holidays.

2 (2) These adjustments may be granted only if normal school attendance is
3 prevented because of:

4 (i) Natural disaster;

5 (ii) Civil disaster; or

6 (iii) Severe weather conditions.

7 (3) Education funding from State or local sources may not be reduced if
8 there are less than 180 school days in any year because of an approved application under
9 paragraph (1)(i)2 of this subsection.

10 (4) In case of emergency, the State Board may open schools on holidays.

11 (d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the State Board shall
12 divide the school year into the terms it considers appropriate.

13 (e) (1) The county boards of Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard,
14 Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, and the Board of School Commissioners of
15 Baltimore City, may elect to operate one or more schools within the county or Baltimore
16 City on a year-round basis, provided that the 180-day and the minimum hour
17 requirements under this section are met.

18 (2) Nothing in this section precludes a county board from conducting a
19 year-round pilot study or program that is funded by the county board.

20 (f) (1) In this subsection, "minimal hours of attendance" means the minimum
21 hours of attendance for the school year required under COMAR 13A.03.02.12, in effect on
22 July 1, 2025.

23 (2) Subject to the requirements of this subsection, the Anne Arundel
24 County Board of Education may elect to operate all of the schools within the county using
25 a scheduling model that eliminates early dismissal days to allow for less than 180 school
26 days if the minimal hours of attendance are met.

27 (3) If the Anne Arundel County Board of Education elects to use a
28 scheduling model that eliminates early dismissal days in accordance with this subsection,
29 the county board must use the scheduling model for all schools in the county.

30 (4) If the Anne Arundel County Board of Education uses a scheduling
31 model that results in a school in the county being open for less than 180 days, the county
32 board shall offer school employees who receive pay at an hourly rate an opportunity to make
33 up the lost wages through other duties before the beginning of the next school year.

1 (G) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "MINIMAL HOURS OF ATTENDANCE" MEANS
 2 THE MINIMUM HOURS OF ATTENDANCE FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR REQUIRED UNDER
 3 COMAR 13A.03.02.12, IN EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2026.

4 (2) THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY ELECT
 5 TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITHIN THE COUNTY TO BE OPEN FOR PUPIL
 6 ATTENDANCE ONLY FOR ~~AT LEAST~~:

7 ~~(1) THE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF ACTUAL SCHOOL DAYS REQUIRED~~
 8 ~~UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1)(I) OF THIS SECTION; OR~~

9 ~~(2) THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF SCHOOL HOURS REQUIRED UNDER~~
 10 ~~SUBSECTION (A)(1)(I) OF THIS SECTION THE MINIMAL HOURS OF ATTENDANCE IF:~~

11 (i) THE SCHOOL CALENDAR WAS ADOPTED IN ACCORDANCE
 12 WITH SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION;

13 (ii) NORMAL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE
 14 COUNTY WAS PREVENTED DUE TO A CONDITION DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION
 15 (B)(2) OF THIS SECTION, NECESSITATING ADDITIONAL TIME TO MEET THE NUMBER
 16 OF REQUIRED SCHOOL DAYS OR MINIMAL HOURS OF ATTENDANCE:

17 1. AFTER THE SCHEDULED END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR;
 18 OR

19 2. DURING A DAY THAT SCHOOLS ARE SCHEDULED FOR
 20 CLOSURE;

21 (iii) THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS USED AT LEAST 2 SCHOOL
 22 DAYS INCORPORATED INTO ITS CALENDAR FOR SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO SEVERE
 23 WEATHER;

24 (iv) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE
 25 MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS APPLIED FOR AN ADJUSTMENT
 26 TO THE SCHOOL YEAR UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION; AND

27 (v) PUBLIC SCHOOLS REMAIN OPEN FOR AT LEAST 175 ACTUAL
 28 SCHOOL DAYS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

29 (3) THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE THE
 30 MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TO RECEIVE AN APPROVAL OR
 31 DENIAL OF A REQUEST TO ADJUST THE SCHOOL YEAR BEFORE ELECTING TO
 32 REQUIRE ONLY THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF ACTUAL SCHOOL DAYS OR THE MINIMAL
 33 HOURS OF ATTENDANCE UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

1 **(4) IF A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY IS OPEN FOR FEWER THAN**
2 **180 ACTUAL SCHOOL DAYS OR THE MINIMAL HOURS OF ATTENDANCE IN**
3 **ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION, THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF**
4 **EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WHO RECEIVE PAY AT AN HOURLY**
5 **RATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE UP THE LOST WAGES THROUGH OTHER DUTIES**
6 **BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.**

7 **[(g)] (H)** Publicly funded half-day prekindergarten programs are not subject to
8 the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

9 **[(h)] (I)** Notwithstanding any other law and subject only to this section, each
10 county board annually shall set the start and end dates of the school year for schools in the
11 county.

12 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:**

13 **(a) On or before June 30, 2026, and on or before June 30, 2027, the Montgomery**
14 **County Board of Education shall report to the State Board of Education and, in accordance**
15 **with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on the operation**
16 **of schools during the preceding school year that were open fewer than 180 actual school**
17 **days or the minimal hours of attendance in accordance with § 7-103(g) of the Education**
18 **Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.**

19 **(b) The reports required under this section shall include a summary for**
20 **elementary, middle, and high schools open fewer than 180 actual school days or the**
21 **minimal hours of attendance on:**

22 **(1) the days the schools were open; and**

23 **(2) the number of hours per day that the schools were open with students**
24 **in attendance.**

25 **SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act ~~shall take effect~~**
26 **~~July 1, 2026~~ is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the**
27 **public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of**
28 **all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take**
29 **effect from the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through June 30, 2027, and, at**
30 **the end of June 30, 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly,**
31 **shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.**