

# SENATE BILL 103

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SB 468/25 – EEE

(PRE-FILED)

6lr1510  
CF HB 189

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By: Senator Benson

Requested: October 31, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Middle, High, and Charter Schools – Start Time for Instruction**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring, beginning in a certain school year, each public middle school  
4 and each public high school to begin instruction not earlier than certain times unless  
5 granted a waiver by the State Board of Education under certain circumstances;  
6 requiring each county board of education and each public charter school to  
7 implement a certain public service campaign to raise awareness of sleep deprivation  
8 and later school start times; and generally relating to the start time of instruction in  
9 public middle, high, and charter schools.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

11 Article – Education

12 Section 7–103

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Education**

18 7–103.

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

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

4 (2) Shall be open for pupil attendance a minimum of 3 hours during each  
5 school day;

**(3) BEGINNING IN THE 2028–2029 SCHOOL YEAR:**

11                   [(3)] (4)     May not be open on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays in order to  
12 meet the 180-day or 1,080-hour requirement of this subsection.

16 (i) The following adjustments:

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

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

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

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

(iv) Schools to be open on holidays.

(2) [These] THE adjustments UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION may be granted only if normal school attendance is prevented because of:

25 (i) [Natural] A NATURAL disaster;

(ii) [Civil] A CIVIL disaster; or

27 (iii) Severe weather conditions.

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

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

5 (c) (1) The following days are public school holidays:

6 (i) Thanksgiving Day and the day after;

7 (ii) Christmas Eve [and from then] through January 1, **INCLUSIVE**;

8 (iii) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;

9 (iv) Presidents' Day;

10 (v) The Friday before Easter [and from then] through the Monday  
11 after Easter, **INCLUSIVE**;

12 (vi) Memorial Day; and

13 (vii) Primary and general election days.

19 (i) Washington's Birthday;

20 (ii) Lincoln's Birthday;

21 (iii) Veterans' Day;

22 (iv) Columbus Day;

23 (v) Arbor Day

24 (vi) Black Hist

26 (vii) Any other day of national significance

- 4 (i) Calvert;
- 5 (ii) Caroline;
- 6 (iii) Dorchester;
- 7 (iv) Kent;
- 8 (v) Talbot; and
- 9 (vi) Worcester.

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

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

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

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

(g) Publicly funded half-day prekindergarten programs are not subject to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

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

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

16 (a) Beginning in the 2027–2028 school year, and concluding before the start of the  
17 following school year, each county board of education, including Baltimore City, and each  
18 public charter school shall implement a public information campaign to raise awareness of:

19 (1) the health, safety, and academic impacts of sleep deprivation on middle  
20 and high school students;

21 (2) the student benefits of a later school start time; and

22 (3) local strategies that will be used to implement the new start time.

23 (b) The public information campaign shall be targeted toward each school's  
24 community, including parents, teachers, school administrators, coaches, and other  
25 interested parties and shall provide an opportunity for feedback.

26 (c) The State Department of Education shall assist a county board of education  
27 or a public charter school with implementation of the public information campaign if the  
28 county board or public charter school requests assistance.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
30 1, 2026.