

SENATE BILL 612

F3

6lr3279
CF 6lr3280

By: **Talbot County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Talbot County – Public Schools – School Schedule Options**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Talbot County Board of Education to operate schools
4 within the county using a certain school scheduling model that is exempt from a certain
5 requirement under certain circumstances; requiring a school operating under a certain
6 scheduling model to provide certain employees an opportunity to make up lost wages; and generally relating to public school scheduling models and the Talbot
7 County Board of Education.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

10 Article – Education

11 Section 7–103(a)

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article – Education

16 Section 7–103(f)

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article – Education

21 Section 7–103(a), (f), and (g)

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

24 (As enacted by Chapter 346 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025)

25 BY adding to

26 Article – Education

27 Section 7–103(f)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Annotated Code of Maryland
(2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
(As enacted by Chapter 346 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025)

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

5 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7 7-103.

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

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

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) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY TO THE ANNE ARUNDEL
24 COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

29 **[(3)] (4)** If **[the Anne Arundel County Board of Education] A COUNTY**
30 **BOARD** elects to use a scheduling model that eliminates early dismissal days in accordance
31 with this subsection, the county board must use the scheduling model for all schools in the
32 county.

1 **[(4)] (5)** If [the Anne Arundel County Board of Education] A COUNTY
2 **BOARD** uses a scheduling model that results in a school in the county being open for less
3 than 180 days, the county board shall offer school employees who receive pay at an hourly
4 rate an opportunity to make up the lost wages through other duties before the beginning of
5 the next school year.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
7 as follows:

8 **Article – Education**

9 7-103.

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

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

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

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

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

22 (F) (1) **IN THIS SUBSECTION, “MINIMAL HOURS OF ATTENDANCE” MEANS**
23 **THE MINIMUM HOURS OF ATTENDANCE FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR REQUIRED UNDER**
24 **COMAR 13A.03.02.12, IN EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2025.**

25 (2) **SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**
26 **TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY ELECT TO OPERATE ALL OF THE**
27 **SCHOOLS WITHIN THE COUNTY USING A SCHEDULING MODEL THAT ELIMINATES**
28 **EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS TO ALLOW FOR LESS THAN 180 SCHOOL DAYS IF THE**
29 **MINIMAL HOURS OF ATTENDANCE ARE MET.**

30 (3) **IF THE TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTS TO USE**
31 **A SCHEDULING MODEL THAT ELIMINATES EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS IN ACCORDANCE**
32 **WITH THIS SUBSECTION, THE COUNTY BOARD MUST USE THE SCHEDULING MODEL**
33 **FOR ALL SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY.**

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

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

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

17 (b) The reports required under this section shall include a summary of each day
18 a school operating under an alternative scheduling model was open and the number of
19 hours per day that the school was open with students in attendance.

20 SECTION 4. AND IT BE FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take
21 effect on the taking effect of the termination provision specified in Section 3 of Chapter 346
22 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2025. If that termination provision takes effect,
23 Section 1 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
24 abrogated and of no further force and effect. This Act may not be interpreted to have any
25 effect on that termination provision.

26 SECTION 5. AND IT BE FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions in
27 Section 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a
28 period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2028, this Act, with no further action required
29 by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.