

# SENATE BILL 1004

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CF HB 1174

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By: **Howard County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2026

Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County – Board of Education – Mandatory School Holidays**

3 **Ho. Co. 11–26**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education to close public schools  
5 in the county to students to observe certain holidays beginning in a certain school  
6 year; and generally relating to the Howard County Board of Education and  
7 mandatory school holidays.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article – Education  
10 Section 7–103(a)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 7–103.

22 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), (e), (f), and (g) of this section, each public  
23 school under the jurisdiction of a county board:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

4 (ii) If normal school attendance is prevented because of conditions  
5 described in subsection (b) of this section, shall be open for at least 1,080 hours during a  
6 10-month period;

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

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

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

12 (i) Thanksgiving Day and the day after;

13 (ii) Christmas Eve and from then through January 1;

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

15 (iv) Presidents' Day;

16 (v) The Friday before Easter and from then through the Monday  
17 after Easter;

18 (vi) Memorial Day; and

19 (vii) Primary and general election days.

20 (2) If the federal and State observances of a holiday are on different days,  
21 the board of education of each county shall determine which date shall be the date of  
22 observance for the public schools within the county.

23 (3) The public schools shall devote a part of at least one day to appropriate  
24 exercises for each of the following:

25 (i) Washington's Birthday;

26 (ii) Lincoln's Birthday;

27 (iii) Veterans' Day;

28 (iv) Columbus Day;

29 (v) Arbor Day;

(vi) Black History Month, with an emphasis on Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass and the contributions they made in the fight against slavery; and

(vii) Any other day of national significance.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the public schools, in the following counties, may remain open and in session on primary and general election days:

(i) Calvert;

(ii) Caroline;

(iii) Dorchester;

(iv) Kent;

(v) Talbot; and

(vi) Worcester.

**(5) (I) THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY IN HOWARD COUNTY.**

**(II) BEGINNING IN THE 2027–2028 SCHOOL YEAR, THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL CLOSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE ONLY TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:**

**1. THE FIRST DAY ONLY OF:**

**A. DIWALI;**

**B. EID AL-ADHA;**

**C. EID AL-FITR;**

**D. LUNAR NEW YEAR; AND**

**E. ROSH HASHANAH;**

**2. YOM KIPPUR; AND**

**3. JUNETEENTH.**

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