



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
(410) 974-3901
(TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

HB 743 Universal School Start Act of 2020

House Ways & Means Committee
February 21, 2020

Keiffer Mitchell, Chief Legislative Officer, Governor's Legislative Office
Ali Keane, Deputy Legislative Officer, Governor's Legislative Office

Chair Kaiser, Vice-Chair Washington, and Members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

The Governor asks for your favorable report on House Bill 743 - Universal School Start Act of 2020. This emergency bill requires each local board of education, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, to set the start date of the school year for schools in the county no earlier than the first Tuesday after Labor Day. A local board may grant a waiver of this requirement to a school for one year for good cause as established in regulations by the State Board of Education.

On August 31, 2016 Governor Hogan signed an Executive Order to start the public school year after Labor Day. The Executive Order drew clear, strong, bipartisan support among an overwhelming majority of Marylanders. Unfortunately, last session legislation was passed that undid the Governor's Executive Order. This legislation will restore what an overwhelming amount of Marylanders want.

For these reasons the Administration asks for your favorable report on **House Bill 743**.