



HB743 UNIVERSAL SCHOOL START ACT OF 2020

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB743 Universal School Start Act of 2020**. This emergency Administration 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.

This bill would undo the 2019 law which restored local board governance over the school calendar. The 2019 law also provided the greatly needed flexibility for each county board to best meet the needs of its respective students and prevented the unmanageable calendar crunch school systems experienced as a result of Governor Hogan's Executive Order requiring all public schools to begin the school year no earlier than the Tuesday immediately following Labor Day and end no later than June 15. The parameters set forth in the Executive Order required most, if not all, school systems in the State to rewrite their school calendars in order to squeeze the mandated 180 days of instructional days between Labor Day and June 15.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB743.