



**HB1250 EDUCATION – LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR – DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY  
(KATHRYN MARIE CARMELLO’S LAW)**

February 28, 2020

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

**SUPPORT**

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **HB1250 Education – Length of the School Year – Declared State of Emergency (Kathryn Marie Carmello’s Law)**. This bill authorizes a local board of education to decrease the length of the school year for each school day affected by a declared state of emergency for any public schools located in the area threatened by the emergency, without approval of the State Board of Education. The bill also repeals the authority of the State Board to open schools on holidays in the case of emergency.

This legislation would provide school systems additional flexibility at the end of the school year regarding the school calendar. COMAR requires school systems to demonstrate that they have modified their calendars both within the school year and by extending the school year a minimum of three days past the last scheduled day of school. Under current law, public schools must be open for at least 180 days and 1,080 school hours at elementary and middle schools and 1,170 hours at high schools during a 10-month period. However, a local board of education may apply to the State Board of Education for a waiver from these provisions of State law; the application must describe a demonstrated effort by the local board to comply with State law. The State Board of Education may grant adjustments only if normal school attendance is prevented because of natural disaster, civil disaster, or severe weather conditions. Accordingly, we believe it is appropriate to add a “state of emergency” to this list of exceptions.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB1250.