



BILL: House Bill 1457
TITLE: Washington County – Juveniles – Truancy Reduction Pilot Program
HEARING DATE: March 12, 2026
POSITION: FAVORABLE
COMMITTEE: Judiciary Committee
CONTACT: Ms. Jamie Brown, Legislative Representative, 301-766-2946

Regular school attendance is vital to meeting the educational needs of each student. Schools educate students most effectively and provide the necessary support and assistance to maximize success in school when students have regular school attendance. House Bill 1457 would allow the circuit administrative judge of Washington County to establish a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program and is fully supported by Washington County Board of Education as another method to combat truancy.

Addressing truancy violations in juvenile court through the truancy docket has a direct impact on the student unlike district court where the impact is on the parent/guardian. Aside from ordering the student to attend school, other dispositions can include an order for the student to attend counseling, including family counseling, to attend substance abuse evaluation and treatment, or to attend mental health evaluation and treatment. It is through such student-directed dispositions that the root cause of the student's truancy may be uncovered and addressed resulting in the student's regular daily attendance.

Daily attendance is essential to better academic performance, greater work opportunities, higher education opportunities, better student outcomes, and supports social/emotional development. Washington County Public Schools believes that every day matters and is essential to student success and welcomes a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program to help combat truancy.

Washington County Board of Education supports House Bill 1457 and requests the Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report.

Thank you.

Cc: Washington County Board of Education Members
Washington County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly
The Honorable Brett R. Wilson, Washington County Administrative Judge
Dr. David T. Sovine, Superintendent
Dr. Gary Willow, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Jeffrey Proulx, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Jeremy Jakoby, Director of Student Services, School Counseling and School Health