

THOMAS S. HUTCHINSON
Legislative District 37B
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,
and Wicomico Counties



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 308
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3582 · 301-858-3582
800-492-7122 Ext. 3582
Tom.Hutchinson@house.state.md.us

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Public Health and
Minority Health Disparities

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony

**HB1006 Talbot County - Public Schools - School Schedule Options
w/Amendment 753624/1**

Ways and Means Committee

March 4th, 2026

What This Bill Does

HB1006 authorizes the Talbot County Board of Education to implement an alternative school scheduling model that prioritizes total instructional hours over the traditional 180-day calendar requirement. Under this legislation, the county may operate for fewer than 180 days per year, provided they still meet the state-mandated minimum hours of attendance by eliminating disruptive early dismissal days. The bill ensures that this transition is equitable for the workforce by requiring the Board of Education to provide hourly employees with opportunities to make up any lost wages through alternative duties. Additionally, the bill includes a transparency and oversight component, requiring the Board to report the specifics of their alternative schedule to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly for the next two years.

Why Is This Bill Needed?

This bill is necessary because it provides Talbot County with the local flexibility needed to create a more stable and efficient learning environment for students and families. The current "early dismissal" model often creates childcare hurdles for working parents and disrupts the instructional momentum for students. By consolidating these partial days into full days of instruction, the school system can maximize time learning, while potentially reducing transportation costs and operational overhead. Furthermore, by following the precedent already set by Anne Arundel County, this bill allows Talbot County to innovate its calendar to better meet the unique needs of a rural community. It offers a balanced approach that maintains high

academic standards while protecting the financial stability of hourly staff and providing the state with data to evaluate the success of alternative scheduling.

I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable vote on **HB1006**.