

HOUSE BILL 226

F3

(PRE-FILED)

5lr1546
CF 5lr2064

By: **Delegate Bagnall**

Requested: October 31, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Anne Arundel County – Public Schools – School Schedule Options**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to operate
4 certain schools within the county using a certain school scheduling model that is
5 exempt from a certain requirement under certain circumstances; and generally
6 relating to public school scheduling models and the Anne Arundel County Board of
7 Education.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 7–103(a), (f), and (g)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 7–103(b), (d), and (e)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Education
20 Section 7–103(f)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 7-103.

2 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), (e), [and] (f), AND (G) of this section,
3 each public school under the jurisdiction of a county board:

4 (1) (i) Shall be open for pupil attendance for at least 180 actual school
5 days and a minimum of 1,080 school hours during a 10-month period in each school year;
6 or

7 (ii) If normal school attendance is prevented because of conditions
8 described in subsection (b) of this section, shall be open for at least 1,080 hours during a
9 10-month period;

10 (2) Shall be open for pupil attendance a minimum of 3 hours during each
11 school day; and

12 (3) May not be open on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays in order to meet
13 the 180-day or 1,080-hour requirement of this subsection.

14 (b) (1) If a county board submits a written application to the State Board that
15 describes a demonstrated effort by the county board to comply with subsection (a) of this
16 section, the State Board may permit:

17 (i) The following adjustments:

18 1. An increase in the length of the school year; or

19 2. A decrease in the length of the school year;

20 (ii) Exceptions from the requirement that the school year be
21 completed within a 10-month period;

22 (iii) Adjustments in the length of the school day; and

23 (iv) Schools to be open on holidays.

24 (2) These adjustments may be granted only if normal school attendance is
25 prevented because of:

26 (i) Natural disaster;

27 (ii) Civil disaster; or

28 (iii) Severe weather conditions.

29 (3) Education funding from State or local sources may not be reduced if

1 there are less than 180 school days in any year because of an approved application under
2 paragraph (1)(i)2 of this subsection.

3 (4) In case of emergency, the State Board may open schools on holidays.

4 (d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the State Board shall
5 divide the school year into the terms it considers appropriate.

6 (e) (1) The county boards of Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard,
7 Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, and the Board of School Commissioners of
8 Baltimore City, may elect to operate one or more schools within the county or Baltimore
9 City on a year-round basis, provided that the 180-day and the minimum hour
10 requirements under this section are met.

11 (2) Nothing in this section precludes a county board from conducting a
12 year-round pilot study or program that is funded by the county board.

13 **(F) THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY ELECT TO**
14 **OPERATE ONE OR MORE SCHOOLS WITHIN THE COUNTY USING A SCHEDULING**
15 **MODEL THAT ELIMINATES EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS IF THE MINIMUM 1,080-HOUR**
16 **REQUIREMENT UNDER THIS SECTION IS MET.**

17 **[(f)] (G)** Publicly funded half-day prekindergarten programs are not subject to
18 the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

19 **[(g)] (H)** Notwithstanding any other law and subject only to this section, each
20 county board annually shall set the start and end dates of the school year for schools in the
21 county.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
23 1, 2025.