

HOUSE BILL 1169

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5lr0981

By: **Howard County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County and Montgomery County – Board of Education – Mandatory**
3 **School Holidays**

4 ~~MC 6-25~~

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education and the Montgomery
6 County Board of Education to close public schools in the county to students to observe
7 certain holidays beginning in a certain school year; and generally relating to the
8 Howard County Board of Education and the Montgomery County Board of Education
9 and mandatory school holidays.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 7–103(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Education
17 Section 7–103(c)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Article – Education

7–103.

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

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

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

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

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

(c) (1) The following days are public school holidays:

(i) Thanksgiving Day and the day after;

(ii) Christmas Eve and from then through January 1;

(iii) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;

(iv) Presidents' Day;

(v) The Friday before Easter and from then through the Monday after Easter;

(vi) Memorial Day; and

(vii) Primary and general election days.

(2) If the federal and State observances of a holiday are on different days, the board of education of each county shall determine which date shall be the date of observance for the public schools within the county.

(3) The public schools shall devote a part of at least one day to appropriate exercises for each of the following:

(i) Washington's Birthday;

(ii) Lincoln's Birthday;

(iii) Veterans' Day;

(iv) Columbus Day;

(v) Arbor Day;

(vi) Black History Month, with an emphasis on Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass and the contributions they made in the fight against slavery; and

(vii) Any other day of national significance.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the public schools, in the following counties, may remain open and in session on primary and general election days:

(i) Calvert;

(ii) Caroline;

(iii) Dorchester;

(iv) Kent;

(v) Talbot; and

(vi) Worcester.

(5) (I) THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY IN HOWARD AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNTIES.

(II) ~~THE~~ BEGINNING IN THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR, THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL CLOSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY, INCLUDING ALL BUILDINGS AND OFFICES, FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE ONLY TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

1. ~~IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS BEGIN ON A WEEKDAY, THE~~ THE FIRST DAY ONLY OF:

A. DIWALI;

B. EID AL-ADHA;

C. EID AL-FITR;

D. LUNAR NEW YEAR; AND

E. ROSH HASHANAH; ~~AND~~

2. YOM KIPPUR; AND

3. JUNETEENTH.

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.