F1 5lr2016 CF SB 468

By: Delegates Miller, Alston, Arentz, Boafo, Buckel, Fair, Hornberger, Hutchinson, T. Morgan, Nkongolo, Otto, Pippy, Roberson, Schmidt, Valentine, Vogel, and Wims

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

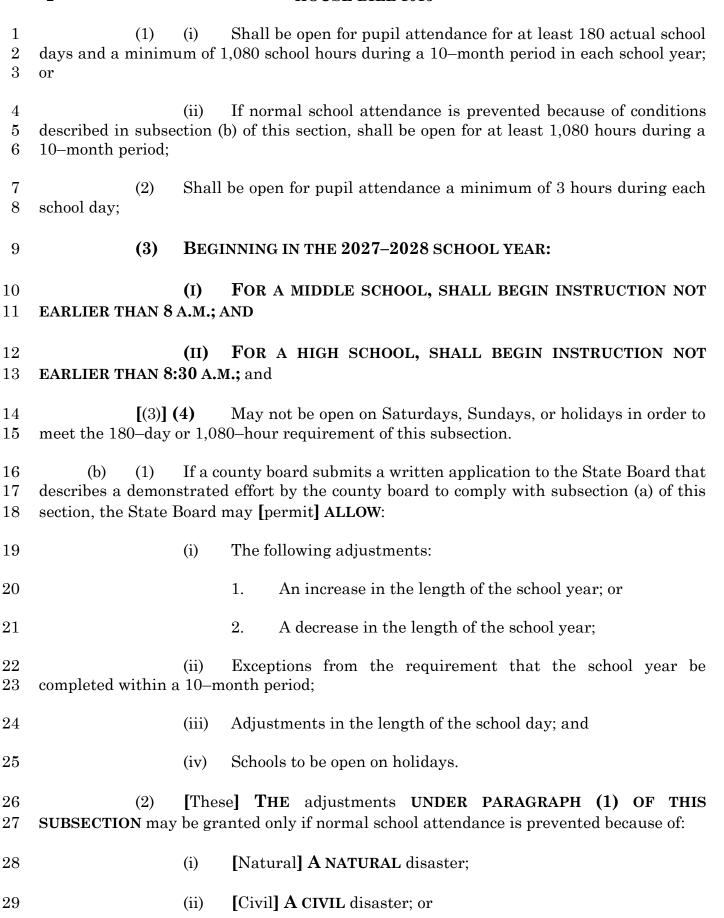
2

## Public Middle, High, and Charter Schools - Start Time for Instruction

- FOR the purpose of requiring, beginning in a certain school year, each public middle school and each public high school to begin instruction not earlier than certain times unless granted a waiver by the State Board of Education under certain circumstances; requiring each county board of education and each public charter school to implement a certain public service campaign to raise awareness on sleep deprivation and later school start times; and generally relating to the start time of instruction in public middle, high, and charter schools.
- 10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 11 Article Education
- 12 Section 7–103
- 13 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
- 15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

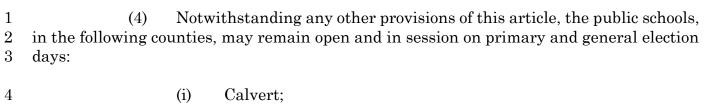
## 17 Article – Education

- 18 7–103.
- 19 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), (e), [and] (f), AND (G) of this section,
- 20 each public school under the jurisdiction of a county board:



1		(iii)	Severe weather conditions.	
2 3 4	(3) Education funding from State or local sources may not be reduced if there are less than 180 school days in any year because of an approved application under paragraph (1)(i)2 of this subsection.			
5	(4)	In cas	se of emergency, the State Board may open schools on holidays.	
6	(c) (1)	The fo	ollowing days are public school holidays:	
7		(i)	Thanksgiving Day and the day after;	
8		(ii)	Christmas Eve [and from then] through January 1, INCLUSIVE;	
9		(iii)	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;	
0		(iv)	Presidents' Day;	
11	(v) The Friday before Easter [and from then] through the Monday after Easter, INCLUSIVE;			
13		(vi)	Memorial Day; and	
4		(vii)	Primary and general election days.	
15 16 17	(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.			
18 19				
20		(i)	Washington's Birthday;	
21		(ii)	Lincoln's Birthday;	
22		(iii)	Veterans' Day;	
23		(iv)	Columbus Day;	
24		(v)	Arbor Day;	
25 26	Frederick Douglass	(vi) s and t	Black History Month, with an emphasis on Harriet Tubman and the contributions they made in the fight against slavery; and	
27		(vii)	Any other day of national significance.	

5



- 6 (iii) Dorchester;

(ii)

Caroline;

- 7 (iv) Kent;
- 8 (v) Talbot; and
- 9 (vi) Worcester.
- 10 (d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the State Board shall 11 divide the school year into the terms it considers appropriate.
- 12 (e) (1) The county boards of Allegany, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard,
  13 Montgomery, and Prince George's counties, and the Board of School Commissioners of
  14 Baltimore City, may elect to operate one or more schools within the county or Baltimore
  15 City on a year-round basis, provided that the 180-day and the minimum hour
  16 requirements under this section are met.
- 17 (2) Nothing in this section precludes a county board from conducting a 18 year—round pilot study or program that is funded by the county board.
- 19 (f) Publicly funded half-day prekindergarten programs are not subject to the 20 requirements of subsection (a) of this section.
- 21 (G) (1) ON REQUEST BY A COUNTY BOARD, THE STATE BOARD MAY
  22 GRANT A WAIVER TO A MIDDLE SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL TO BEGIN INSTRUCTION
  23 AT A TIME EARLIER THAN THE TIME SPECIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3) OF THIS
  24 SECTION IF THE STATE BOARD DETERMINES THAT THERE IS A COMPELLING
  25 REASON FOR A SCHOOL TO REQUIRE A DIFFERENT START TIME.
- 26 (2) A LACK OF FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR ALIGNING THE START OF
  27 INSTRUCTION WITH THE TIMES SPECIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3) OF THIS
  28 SECTION IS NOT A COMPELLING REASON FOR GRANTING A WAIVER UNDER THIS
  29 SUBSECTION.
- [(g)] (H) Notwithstanding any other law and subject only to this section, each county board annually shall set the start and end dates of the school year for schools in the county.

## 1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

7

- 2 (a) Beginning in the 2026–2027 school year, and concluding before the start of the 3 following school year, each county board of education, including Baltimore City, and each 4 public charter school shall implement a public information campaign to raise awareness of:
- 5 (1) the health, safety, and academic impacts of sleep deprivation on middle 6 and high school students;
  - (2) the student benefits of a later school start time; and
- 8 (3) local strategies that will be used to implement the new start time.
- 9 (b) The public information campaign shall be targeted toward each school's 10 community, including parents, teachers, school administrators, coaches, and other 11 interested parties and shall provide an opportunity for feedback.
- 12 (c) The State Department of Education shall assist a county board of education 13 or a public charter school with implementation of the public information campaign if the 14 county board or public charter school requests assistance.
- SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 16 1, 2025.