

# HOUSE BILL 881

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4lr3068  
CF 4lr3066

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By: **Delegates Henson, Bagnall, and Bartlett**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Anne Arundel County – Public Schools – Innovative Scheduling Pilot Program**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to establish  
4 a pilot program to operate certain schools within the county using an innovative  
5 scheduling model; authorizing county boards of education to explore the use of  
6 certain innovative school scheduling models for public schools in the county; and  
7 generally relating to the innovative school scheduling pilot program in Anne Arundel  
8 County Public Schools.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – Education  
11 Section 7–103(a)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – Education  
16 Section 7–103(e) and 7–103.1  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Education**

22 7–103.

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(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.

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

**(2) (I) IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, THE COUNTY BOARD MAY ELECT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO OPERATE ONE OR MORE SCHOOLS WITHIN THE COUNTY USING AN INNOVATIVE SCHEDULING MODEL, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING MODELS:**

**1. EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR;**

**2. YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL;**

**3. 4-DAY SCHOOL WEEK; OR**

**4. ANY OTHER INNOVATIVE SCHEDULING MODEL APPROVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD.**

**(II) A PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL:**

**1. MEET THE MINIMUM HOUR REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

**2. OPERATE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LONGER THAN 5 YEARS, INCLUDING A 1-YEAR PLANNING PROCESS AND A 4-YEAR OPERATING PERIOD.**

1                   **(III) DURING THE 1-YEAR PLANNING PROCESS OF A PILOT**  
2 **PROGRAM, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL:**

3                   **1. PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE INTENT TO OPERATE AN**  
4 **INNOVATIVE SCHEDULING PILOT PROGRAM TO:**

5                   **A. THE STATE BOARD; AND**

6                   **B. THE IMPACTED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, THE SCHOOL**  
7 **COMMUNITY, AND THE EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION DESIGNATED AS THE EXCLUSIVE**  
8 **REPRESENTATIVE OF THE IMPACTED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES; AND**

9                   **2. NEGOTIATE THE RELEVANT ISSUES WITH THE**  
10 **EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION DESIGNATED AS THE EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF**  
11 **THE IMPACTED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 6-406 OF THIS**  
12 **ARTICLE.**

13                   **[(2)] (3)** Nothing in this section precludes a county board from conducting  
14 a year-round pilot study or program that is funded by the county board.

15 7-103.1.

16                   **(a) (1)** The State Board shall explore the use of innovative school scheduling  
17 models, including extended year, year-round schooling, or other school scheduling models  
18 that do not allow for prolonged lapses in instructional time, in low-performing or at-risk  
19 public schools.

20                   **[(b)] (2)** The State Board shall encourage county boards to use the school  
21 scheduling models that are determined to be most effective in enhancing student  
22 achievement in low-performing or at-risk public schools.

23                   **(B) A COUNTY BOARD MAY EXPLORE THE USE OF INNOVATIVE SCHOOL**  
24 **SCHEDULING MODELS, INCLUDING EXTENDED YEAR, YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL, 4-DAY**  
25 **SCHOOL WEEK, OR OTHER SCHOOL SCHEDULING MODELS THAT DO NOT ALLOW FOR**  
26 **PROLONGED LAPSES IN INSTRUCTIONAL TIME IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

27                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
28 1, 2024.