

# HOUSE BILL 1250

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By: **Delegates McComas, Arikan, Ciliberti, Griffith, Impallaria, Johnson, Kaiser, Lisanti, Reilly, and Szeliga**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Length of the School Year – Declared State of Emergency**  
3 **(Kathryn Marie Carmello’s Law)**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a county board of education to decrease the length of the  
5 school year for each school day affected by a declared state of emergency for certain  
6 public schools without approval of the State Board of Education; repealing a  
7 provision of law authorizing the State Board to open schools on holidays in the case  
8 of emergency; making conforming changes; and generally relating to the length of  
9 the school year.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Education  
12 Section 7–103(a)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Education  
17 Section 7–103(b)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

## 22 **Article – Education**

23 7–103.

24 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), (e), and (f) of this section, each public

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 school under the jurisdiction of a county board:

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

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

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

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

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

15 (i) The following adjustments:

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

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

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

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

21 (iv) Schools to be open on holidays.

22 (2) **[These] THE adjustments UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
23 **SUBSECTION** may be granted only if normal school attendance is prevented because of:

24 (i) Natural disaster;

25 (ii) Civil disaster; or

26 (iii) Severe weather conditions.

27 **(3) A COUNTY BOARD MAY DECREASE THE LENGTH OF THE SCHOOL**  
28 **YEAR, WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM THE STATE BOARD, FOR EACH SCHOOL DAY**  
29 **AFFECTED BY A DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY UNDER § 14-107 OF THE PUBLIC**  
30 **SAFETY ARTICLE FOR ANY PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOCATED IN THE AREA THREATENED**

1 BY THE EMERGENCY.

2 [(3)] (4) Education funding from State or local sources may not be  
3 reduced if there are less than 180 school days in any year because of an approved  
4 application under paragraph (1)(i)2 of this subsection.

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

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
7 1, 2020.