

HOUSE BILL 1354

F1

4lr2503

By: **Delegates Howard, Arentz, Buckel, Griffith, Hartman, Hornberger, Kipke, McComas, T. Morgan, Rose, and Tomlinson**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 17, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Veterans’ Day – ~~Excused Student Absence~~ Authorized Public**
3 **School Holiday**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring~~ authorizing public schools to ~~excuse any student’s absence~~
5 ~~from school for observance of~~ designate Veterans’ Day as a public school holiday; and
6 generally relating to ~~excused absences~~ school holidays for public school students.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Education

9 Section 7–103(c)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Education**

15 7–103.

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

17 (i) Thanksgiving Day and the day after;

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.



- 1 (ii) Christmas Eve and from then through January 1;
- 2 (iii) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;
- 3 (iv) Presidents' Day;
- 4 (v) The Friday before Easter and from then through the Monday
5 after Easter;
- 6 (vi) Memorial Day; and
- 7 (vii) Primary and general election days.

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

11 **(II) EACH COUNTY BOARD MAY DESIGNATE VETERANS' DAY AS**
12 **A PUBLIC SCHOOL HOLIDAY.**

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

- 15 (i) Washington's Birthday;
- 16 (ii) Lincoln's Birthday;
- 17 (iii) **IF THE COUNTY BOARD HAS NOT DESIGNATED VETERANS'**
18 **DAY AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL HOLIDAY, Veterans' Day;**
- 19 (iv) Columbus Day;
- 20 (v) Arbor Day;
- 21 (vi) Black History Month, with an emphasis on Harriet Tubman and
22 Frederick Douglass and the contributions they made in the fight against slavery; and
- 23 (vii) Any other day of national significance.

24 ~~**(4) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE,**~~
25 ~~**PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHALL EXCUSE ANY STUDENT'S ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL FOR**~~
26 ~~**OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS' DAY.**~~

27 ~~**(4)**~~ **(5)** Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the public
28 schools, in the following counties, may remain open and in session on primary and general
29 election days:

- 1 (i) Calvert;
- 2 (ii) Caroline;
- 3 (iii) Dorchester;
- 4 (iv) Kent;
- 5 (v) Talbot; and
- 6 (vi) Worcester.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.