



SB268 – GENERAL PROVISIONS – FULL-YEAR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

March 7, 2023

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

OPPOSE

Grace Wilson, Legislative & Policy Specialist (410.440.1758)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB268**. This bill requires the standard time in Maryland to be Eastern Daylight Time year-round. This change is contingent on the appropriate federal law being amended to allow states to observe a year-round standard time that is consistent with Eastern Daylight Time. The Secretary of State is required to monitor changes to federal law and notify the Department of Legislative Services when the contingencies are met. If DLS receives the notice on or before December 31, 2028, this change will take effect the second Sunday in March or the first Sunday in November after the change takes effect, whichever occurs first. If DLS does not receive notice of the contingencies being met by December 31, 2028, the bill terminates.

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports school start times that are consistent with student health, safety, and student developmental needs. Many school systems are working to address this issue, which has gained attention after decades of scientific research. Accordingly, at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, AACPS moved to align school start times with recommendation by national health and educational organizations for student well-being and academic success. Those organizations include the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Sleep Medicine, American Medical Association of School Nurses, Society of Pediatric Nurses, National Education Association, and National Parent Teacher Association.

Existing school start time recommendations are based on current practices of alternating between standard time and Eastern Daylight Time. If Maryland were to permanently shift to Eastern Daylight Time, the sun would not rise until approximately 8:30 am during the shortest days of winter. As a result, AACPS students would be walking to school or the bus stop in the dark for many more winter mornings during the school year. Student safety is of the utmost importance to AACPS and requiring students to walk to school and bus stops in the dark creates a genuine safety concern. If this bill were to become law, AACPS would be required to adjust school times yet again in order to meet recommended health guidelines. Such significant adjustments would greatly disrupt the lives of students and families throughout the State with respect to both in-school and out-of-school obligations and activities, forcing many school systems to impose school hours that could be detrimental to student health, well-being, and academics.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB268.