



HB437 COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION - LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR - ADJUSTMENTS

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports **HB437 County Boards of Education - Length of School Year - Adjustments**. This bill requires each local board of education to set start and end dates each year for public schools in the county. The bill effectively repeals any law prohibiting a local board from beginning or ending its school year before or after a certain date.

In 2016, Governor Hogan issued an Executive Order requiring all public schools to begin the school year no earlier than the Tuesday immediately following Labor Day and end no later than June 15. The parameters set forth in the Executive Order have required most, if not all, school systems in the State to rewrite their school calendars in order to squeeze the mandated 180 days of instructional days between Labor Day and June 15. In the 2017-2018 school year, AACPS cut 10 days from our calendar as compared to the 2016-2017 school year. Spring Break was shortened from six days to three days, the number of inclement weather days were reduced from five to three, and parent-teacher conference opportunities were cut from three to two. The 2018-2019 school calendar resulted in additional reductions due to the fact that there was a General Election Day, Yom Kippur fell on a weekday, and June 15 was a Saturday. HB437 would return the authority to determine the school calendar to each local county board of education. This bill restores local board governance over the school calendar. It also provides the greatly needed flexibility for each county board to best meet the needs of their respective students and prevents the unmanageable calendar crunch school systems are currently experiencing.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB437.