



## **HB1078 EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – PRESIDENTS’ DAY AND EASTER**

March 20, 2019

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### **SUPPORT**

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports **HB1078 Education - Public School Holidays – Presidents’ Day and Easter**. This bill repeals a provision of law designating Presidents' Day and the Monday after Easter as public school holidays; and requiring public schools to devote part of the day to appropriate exercises for the observance of Presidents’ Day.

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 falls on a weekday, and June 15 is a Saturday. This legislation would provide AACPS the greatly needed flexibility with the school calendar as it would result in two additional instructional days during the school year.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB1078.