

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

2644 Riva Road · Annapolis · Maryland · 21401

BILL: SB153 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - LENGTH OF SCHOOL YEAR ADJUSTMENT - STATE OF EMERGENCY

HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2017

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POSITION: SUPPORT

CONTACT PERSON: JEANETTE ORTIZ, ESQ., *LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COUNSEL* (410.703.5352)

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 153 Public Schools - Length of School Year Adjustment - State of Emergency**. This bill would authorize a county board of education to adjust the length of the school year for up to 5 school days without applying for a specified waiver if normal school attendance is prevented because of conditions that require the Governor to declare a state of emergency.

Senate Bill 153 would allow local school systems the flexibility to adjust their school calendars without going through the lengthy school calendar waiver process. This bill does not require boards of education or superintendents to automatically shorten the school year; however it provides one more tool to make the school calendar work for their respective school systems. **Senate Bill 153** would also assist county boards of education in meeting the requirements established under a recent executive order requiring local school systems to commence classes for students after Labor Day and conclude them no later than June 15 each year.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** committee report on **Senate Bill 153**.