

HB0288/633520/1

BY: Ways and Means Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 288
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 6, after “time” insert “, subject to certain requirements”; after line 7, insert:

“BY renumbering

Article – Education

Section 7–14A–02 through 7–14A–09

to be Section 7–14A–03 through 7–14A–10, respectively

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)”;

in line 15, strike “and 7–14A–02”; and after line 17, insert:

“BY adding to

Article - Education

Section 7–14A–02

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7–14A–03 and 7–14A–10

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

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On page 1, before line 18, insert:

“SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7-14A-02 through 7-14A-09 of Article – Education of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-14A-03 through 7-14A-10, respectively.”;

in line 18, strike “1.” and substitute “2. AND”; in the same line, after “IT” insert “FURTHER”; and in the same line, strike “BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND”.

On page 2, in line 2, after “SUPERINTENDENT” insert “UNDER § 7-14A-02 OF THIS SUBTITLE”; after line 9, insert:

“7-14A-02.

(A) ON WRITTEN REQUEST OF A COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OR A DETERMINATION BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT THAT IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NECESSARY, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT MAY DECLARE A PROLONGED STATE OF EMERGENCY THAT PREVENTS REGULAR, IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR AT LEAST 14 CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL DAYS DUE TO:

(1) A NATURAL DISASTER;

(2) A CIVIL DISASTER;

(3) A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY; OR

(4) A SPECIFIC SECURITY THREAT IDENTIFIED BY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

(B) IN MAKING A DECLARATION OF A PROLONGED STATE OF EMERGENCY UNDER THIS SECTION, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL:

(1) CONSULT THE GOVERNOR, AND IF APPROPRIATE:

(i) THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT;

(ii) THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE; OR

(iii) THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH;

(2) ISSUE THE DECLARATION IN WRITING;

(3) INDICATE IN THE DECLARATION:

(i) THE NATURE OF THE EMERGENCY; AND

(ii) THE SPECIFIC LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS OR INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS THREATENED OR AFFECTED, UNLESS THE EMERGENCY IS STATEWIDE IN NATURE; AND

(4) DISSEMINATE THE DECLARATION PROMPTLY BY MEANS CALCULATED TO PUBLICIZE THE CONTENTS OF THE DECLARATION.

(C) IF AN EMERGENCY THREATENS OR AFFECTS A PARTICULAR SCHOOL WITHIN A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT MAY DECLARE A PROLONGED STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THAT SCHOOL.

(Over)

(D) (1) A PROLONGED STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION MAY BE TERMINATED BY:

(I) A JOINT RESOLUTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

(II) AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE BY THE STATE BOARD; OR

(III) A DECISION BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT.

(2) IF A PROLONGED STATE OF EMERGENCY IS TERMINATED BY ANY METHOD LISTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL ISSUE A DECLARATION DISSEMINATED PROMPTLY BY MEANS CALCULATED TO PUBLICIZE THE TERMINATION OF THE PROLONGED STATE OF EMERGENCY.

(E) NOTHING IN THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT OR INTERFERE WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH UNDER TITLE 18 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE IN THE EVENT OF A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.”;

and in line 10, strike “7-14A-02.” and substitute “7-14A-03.”.

On page 2, in lines 11, 16, and 29, in each instance, after “emergency” insert “AFFECTING THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM”; and in line 11, strike “the” and substitute “ONE OR MORE”.

On page 3, strike in their entirety lines 16 through 19, inclusive; after line 19, insert:

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“7-14A-10.

The State Board shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this subtitle, including establishing minimum criteria for the adoption and implementation of virtual education plans by a county board during a prolonged state of emergency **AFFECTING THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.**”;

and in line 20, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”.