

HOUSE BILL 616

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7lr2695
CF SB 232

By: Delegates Atterbeary, Angel, Barkley, Barve, Clippinger, Cullison, Davis, Dumais, Ebersole, Hayes, Healey, Hettleman, Hill, C. Howard, Kelly, Korman, Kramer, R. Lewis, Lierman, Lisanti, Luedtke, McCray, Moon, Morales, Patterson, Pena-Melnyk, Queen, Robinson, Sanchez, Turner, Valderrama, Valentino-Smith, Waldstreicher, A. Washington, ~~and M. Washington~~ M. Washington, Tarlau, Ali, and Wilkins

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2017

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2017

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Attendance Policy**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that certain absences from school are lawful absences under
4 certain circumstances; requiring each county board of education to develop a certain
5 attendance policy for pregnant and parenting students that, at a minimum, excuses
6 certain absences under certain circumstances and provides a certain number of days
7 of excused absences for certain students under certain circumstances; ~~requiring~~
8 authorizing certain schools to allow certain students to make up the work that the
9 student missed in a certain time period and to choose the method by which to make
10 up the work that the student missed; requiring each county board to publish its
11 attendance policy for pregnant and parenting students on the county board's Web
12 site; and generally relating to absences from school for pregnant and parenting
13 students.

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Education
16 Section 7–301.1
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7-301.1.

(A) A STUDENT'S ABSENCE DUE TO A STUDENT'S PREGNANCY OR
PARENTING NEEDS IS A LAWFUL ABSENCE AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(B) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A WRITTEN ATTENDANCE
POLICY FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS THAT, AT A MINIMUM, MEETS
THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

(C) (1) THE POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS
SECTION SHALL:

(I) EXCUSE ALL ABSENCES DUE TO PREGNANCY- OR
PARENTING-RELATED CONDITIONS, INCLUDING ABSENCES FOR:

1. LABOR;

2. DELIVERY;

3. RECOVERY; AND

4. PRENATAL AND POSTNATAL MEDICAL
APPOINTMENTS;

~~(II) EXCUSE ANY PREGNANCY-RELATED ABSENCES THAT ARE
DEEMED MEDICALLY NECESSARY BY THE STUDENT'S PHYSICIAN;~~

~~(III)~~ (II) PROVIDE AT LEAST 10 DAYS OF EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR
A PARENTING STUDENT AFTER THE BIRTH OF THE STUDENT'S CHILD;

~~(IV)~~ (III) EXCUSE ANY PARENTING-RELATED ABSENCES DUE TO
AN ILLNESS OR A MEDICAL APPOINTMENT OF THE STUDENT'S CHILD, INCLUDING UP
TO 4 DAYS OF ABSENCES PER SCHOOL YEAR FOR WHICH THE SCHOOL MAY NOT
REQUIRE A NOTE FROM A PHYSICIAN; AND

~~(V)~~ (IV) EXCUSE ANY ABSENCE DUE TO A LEGAL APPOINTMENT
INVOLVING THE PREGNANT OR PARENTING STUDENT THAT IS RELATED TO FAMILY
LAW PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING ADOPTION, CUSTODY, AND VISITATION.

1 (2) ~~AT THE CONCLUSION OF ANY PREGNANCY OR~~
2 ~~PARENTING RELATED PERIOD OF ABSENCE, THE SCHOOL SHALL~~ IN ADDITION TO
3 HOME AND HOSPITAL SERVICES, THE SCHOOL MAY ALLOW THE STUDENT TO:

4 (I) MAKE UP THE WORK THAT THE STUDENT MISSED IN A TIME
5 PERIOD THAT EQUALS AT LEAST AS MANY DAYS THAT THE STUDENT WAS ABSENT;
6 AND

7 (II) CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES TO MAKE
8 UP WORK THAT THE STUDENT MISSED:

9 1. RETAKE A SEMESTER;

10 2. PARTICIPATE IN AN ONLINE COURSE CREDIT
11 RECOVERY PROGRAM; OR

12 3. ALLOW THE STUDENT 6 WEEKS TO CONTINUE AT THE
13 SAME PACE AND FINISH AT A LATER DATE.

14 (3) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL PUBLISH ITS WRITTEN ATTENDANCE
15 POLICY FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS ON THE COUNTY BOARD'S WEB
16 SITE.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
18 1, 2017.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.