A later start to school year worth a look

Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot raises an intriguing question: Why not start school after Labor Day, the more traditional date for the beginning of school?

Franchot believes this would generate a significant amount of tax revenue — $73 million to be exact — from families that would use the added week to vacation in Ocean City or elsewhere in the state.

If he’s right — the numbers are not necessarily firm — this would contribute some much-needed revenue to the treasury.

Perhaps the greatest challenge to the idea is the truth that kids retain less and less of their learning the longer they are away from the classroom.

But all things being equal, there might be advantages to a post-Labor Day start. Taxes generated and wages earned might be at the top of the list, but the cost to cool classrooms in August cannot be insignificant either.