

Chapter 216

(Senate Bill 245)

AN ACT concerning

School Buildings – Solar Technology – Design Development Documents

FOR the purpose of requiring the Board of Public Works to adopt certain regulations requiring certain design development documents for the construction or major renovation of school buildings to include certain information relating to the use of solar technology; requiring the Interagency Committee on School Construction to submit a certain report that includes certain information to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; and generally relating to school buildings and solar technology.

BY ~~repealing and reenacting, with amendments, adding to~~
Article – Education
Section ~~5-301.1~~ 5-301.2
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, State and county school buildings offer large flat surfaces that are ideal for the installation of solar panels; and

WHEREAS, School buildings are also usually a great distance away from tall buildings and trees, making them ideally exposed to sunlight; and

WHEREAS, In these times of tight school board budgets, the generation of electricity could provide local school boards with an additional funding source or cost-saving measure; now, therefore,

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

Article – Education

~~5-301.1.~~

~~(a) (1) There is a solar energy pilot program to promote the use of solar energy systems to generate electricity in public school buildings in the State.~~

~~(2) The pilot program shall be implemented and administered by the Interagency Committee on School Construction and shall operate as provided in this section.~~

~~(b) The Interagency Committee shall:~~

~~(1) Encourage all local boards in the State to study, design, and construct or renovate school buildings that are energy efficient and use solar energy systems to generate electricity to meet some of the school building's electrical energy needs, electrical energy demand, or a combination of the electrical energy needs and electrical energy demand;~~

~~(2) Provide grants out of State funds dedicated for this program to local boards to assist in implementing the use of solar energy systems at existing public schools or in new or renovated school building projects; and~~

~~(3) Develop a procedure for a local board to apply for a grant in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.~~

~~(c) (1) A local board may apply to the Interagency Committee for a grant to cover 90% of the cost to purchase and install a solar energy system to generate a portion of the school building's electrical energy needs or electrical energy demand.~~

~~(2) A local board that receives a grant under this subsection shall pay:~~

~~(i) 10% of the cost to purchase and install the solar energy system; and~~

~~(ii) All architectural or engineering fees for the design and supervision of the installation of the solar energy system.~~

~~(3) The Interagency Committee may award a grant under this section for a solar energy system project with the approval of the Board of Public Works.~~

~~(d) Local school systems are encouraged to seek private funding to implement the pilot program.~~

~~(e) The total savings of electrical energy needs and electrical energy demand costs that result from the installation and use of solar energy systems under this section shall remain with the local school system.~~

~~(f) (1) The Interagency Committee and the Maryland Energy Administration shall cooperate with, assist, provide technical assistance to, and advise school systems to identify appropriate existing public school buildings and public school construction projects that would benefit from the installation of solar energy systems.~~

~~(2) The Interagency Committee shall adopt procedures necessary to implement this section.~~

5-301.2.

~~(C)~~ **(A) THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE DESIGN DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR MAJOR RENOVATION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS SUBMITTED BY A COUNTY BOARD TO THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE:**

(1) AN EVALUATION OF THE USE OF SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING PHOTOVOLTAIC OR SOLAR WATER HEATING, BASED ON LIFE CYCLE COSTS; AND

(2) IF AN EVALUATION DETERMINES THAT SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A CONSTRUCTION OR MAJOR RENOVATION PROJECT, A REPORT THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE USE OF THE TECHNOLOGY IS NOT APPROPRIATE.

~~(H)~~ **(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 OF EACH YEAR, THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR RENOVATION PROJECTS IN EACH JURISDICTION THAT USE SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2013.