

HB1323/374469/1

BY: Appropriations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1323
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “and Zucker” and substitute “Zucker, Jones, Griffith, Eckardt, Sophocleus, Conway, Gaines, Haynes, James, and Guzzone”; in line 2, strike “Supplemental”; and in the same line, strike “Matching Fund Program” and substitute “- Creative Financing Study”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 9, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 3 on page 1 through line 31 on page 9, and substitute:

“FOR the purpose of requiring the Interagency Committee on School Construction to conduct a certain study and make certain recommendations regarding the development of certain alternative financing methods; requiring the Interagency Committee to solicit input from certain entities; requiring the Interagency Committee to submit certain reports on or before certain dates; and generally relating to the financing of public school construction.

Preamble

WHEREAS, School facilities are critical to a strong education system and a strong community; and

WHEREAS, Investment in school facilities is needed now to ensure that 21st century teaching and learning environments are available to prepare our students for the future; and

(Over)

WHEREAS, Investment in school facilities is the interest of the State as a whole as it will help ensure a prosperous economy, strong business growth, and our students' ability to compete for good jobs in the global, high-technology economy; and

WHEREAS, Despite the large infusions of State and local funding for capital improvements that have been invested since fiscal year 2006, the gap between Maryland's public school facility needs and funding capacity remains large; and

WHEREAS, Rapid enrollment growth and maintenance or renovation needs in older schools continue to place enormous pressure on all school facilities; and

WHEREAS, If the State intends to continue to position itself as a global leader in education, the State and counties must collectively pursue a path forward0. by looking at all available options for meeting the financial demands of public school construction; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) The Interagency Committee on School Construction shall conduct a study and make recommendations on:

(1) developing creative means, financing or otherwise, to increase funding for public school construction;

(2) creating more reliable revenue streams that could include leveraging funds by counties to meet public school construction needs; and

(3) examining the use of lease payments for other alternative financing methods, as defined in § 4-126 of the Education Article, by local school systems for public school construction.

(b) In conducting the study required under subsection (a) of this section, the Interagency Committee on School Construction shall solicit input and collaborate with the State Treasurer's Office, local school systems, and county governments.

(c) (1) On or before December 1, 2014, the Interagency Committee on School Construction shall submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee.

(2) On or before September 1, 2015, the Interagency Committee on School Construction shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee.”.