

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 276 (Senator McCray)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Baltimore City Public School Buildings - Notice of Demolition - Repeal**

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This bill repeals an exemption from existing reporting requirements and requires Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) to notify the Baltimore City Council or the President of the Baltimore City Council of the demolition or partial demolition of a school building under BCPS's 10-year plan. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill pertains only to Baltimore City.

**Local Effect:** No direct effect on BCPS's or Baltimore City's finances, but the bill likely delays or disrupts school building demolitions required by BCPS's 10-year plan.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a demolition or partial demolition of a school building under BCPS's 10-year plan is exempt from any required notice to the Baltimore City Council or the President of the Baltimore City Council.

All real property granted, conveyed, devised, or bequeathed for the use of a public school in Baltimore City must be held in trust for the benefit of the school by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City.

A Baltimore City agency, official, employee, or contractor may not undertake, approve, or allow the demolition, in whole or in part, of any City-owned structure without first

providing written notice to the President of the City Council that describes the structure and proposed action. If no member of the City Council objects to the proposed action within 30 days of receiving notice, the agency may proceed with the proposed demolition. If a timely objection is received from a member of the City Council, the demolition may not proceed unless (1) expressly authorized by an ordinance of the Mayor and City Council or (2) the structure remains unoccupied for three years.

Regulations adopted by the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) must require that local school systems adopt educational facilities master plans. Regulations adopted by IAC require that master plans include specified features, including an analysis of future school facility needs.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** BCPS advises that the process for demolishing a school building takes between three and eight months, requiring approval from multiple State and city agencies; the 30-day waiting period and the potential for the City Council to stop a demolition entirely may disrupt BCPS's plan for renovating public schools and increasing its occupancy rate.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City; Interagency Commission on School Construction; Maryland Stadium Authority; Baltimore City Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 2, 2022  
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