



## HB1370 STATE-FUNDED CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR RENOVATION PROJECTS - SOLAR PANELS - REQUIREMENT

March 10, 2020

HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

### OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB1370 State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects - Solar Panels – Requirement**. This bill requires specified construction and major renovation projects which are proposed after December 31, 2020, receive State funding, and are carried out by the State or local governments to be designed, engineered, and constructed in a manner that allows the roof to withstand the weight of solar panels. Such projects must include the placement of the maximum number of solar panels for which the project was designed. The Maryland Green Building Council must recommend design considerations consistent with the bill's intent.

AACPS opposes unfunded mandates and changes to State law that increase school system's business expenses related to school construction. This legislation is an unfunded mandate and does not align with sound engineering principals, widely accepted life-cycle economic costing methodologies, or best practices within energy management and building maintenance. Each building is unique, and the most appropriate energy management and HVAC system should be selected via an exhaustive engineering analysis utilizing broadly accepted sound life-cycle cost modeling. Mandating such a one-size fits all approach defies all sound logic and would lead to increased costs to the taxpayer at both the initial cost point of construction as well as over the 40-50-year ownership period.

While it is difficult to quantify, this legislation could result in millions of additional dollars in initial construction costs as well as millions in additional dollars in operating costs over a 40-50-year lifespan of the district's real estate portfolio.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB1370.