



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB1370 (Cross filed with SB0592)
TITLE: State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects - Solar Panels - Requirement
DATE: 3/10/2020
POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
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The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **supports** HB1370 **with amendments**.

This bill would require all school projects consisting of new, replacement, renovation, and additions, to include provisions that would allow for solar panel installation. Provisions include structural, electrical, mechanical that would maximize the number of solar panels that could be installed on a roof.

While very supportive of the solar industry, the implementation of state stormwater management provisions within Montgomery County and the intent of this bill create regulatory conflict. The provisions of stormwater management to be implemented “at the maximum extent possible” and this bill requiring roof space to be maximized with minimum obstruction create overlapping demands for roof space. Green roof (vegetated) installations have been a requirement on many Montgomery County Public Schools projects due to regulatory demands and access for maintenance typically prohibits the use of solar panels.

To this end, MCPS respectfully requests an amendment to clarify the regulatory conflict and revise the bill to a “may” rather than a “require”.

For these reasons, the Board **supports** this legislation **with amendments** and urges a favorable report.