

February 24, 2020

Re: HB 1092 - County Boards of Education - Payment Data - Disclosures

Hon. Chair Ann Kaiser
6 Bladen Street, House Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

Madam Chair,

House Bill 355 of 2019 repealed the requirement that certain county boards of education develop and maintain a funding accountability website. House Bill 1092 restores the requirement.

It is felt by some that the change to reporting rules in 2019 was a setback for transparency. There are already issues with a lack of compliance as no vendor payment data has been published to the new system.

County boards rely on robust websites to access spending data to perform oversight. Previously utilized tools allow for a more rich analysis into vendor spending. HB 1092 restores the reporting requirement and shifts the responsibility back to the counties. This is most certainly a time where we should opt for systems that allow for more rich analysis and comparison for local boards and more transparency for the public.

Thank you for the hearing for House Bill 1092. I am happy to take questions and I ask for a favorable report.

Delegate Robin Grammer