



SB575 PUBLIC SCHOOLS – MOLD ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION

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EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB575 Public Schools – Mold Assessment and Remediation**. This bill requires MSDE, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health and the Department of General Services, to adopt regulations on or before June 1, 2023, establishing uniform standards for mold assessment and remediation in public schools, including requiring each county board of education to establish a process for reporting and assessing potential mold in a public school and remediating mold identified during a mold assessment.

While AACPS clearly supports the establishment and maintenance of safe and conducive learning environments, this legislation would create an overly complex and expensive unfunded mandate for local school systems. In addition, many of the environmental hazards identified in the proposed legislation are already adequately regulated by other provisions in local, State, or federal statutes with which AACPS already complies. To that extent, this legislation is an overlap of existing legal requirements and could potentially create conflicts with these existing provisions. Other environmental hazards listed in the legislation have no regulatory framework, vetted testing protocols, universally accepted pass/fail criteria, or generally accepted abatement or remediation techniques. The legislation would, thus, place local school systems in an untenable position relative to these undefined, unspecified, or unregulated environmental hazards.

While unable to price out the cost of such a program in detail given the lack of specificity within the bill, it would likely cost AACPS in excess of \$1 million in inspection fees alone as well as untold millions of dollars in potential remediation costs given our 14 million square feet of aging infrastructure.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB575.