



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 1390

Public Schools – Public School Construction – Funding Administration

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: March 26, 2024

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1390 **WITH AMENDMENTS**. As amended, this bill alters the purpose of the Nancy K. Kopp Public School Facilities Priority Fund and establishes the Workgroup on the Assessment and Funding of School Facilities, among other operational changes related to school construction. **MACo seeks an amendment to add local representation to the proposed workgroup.**

Counties support the creation of a new Workgroup on the Assessment and Funding of School Facilities to study and address modern challenges in school construction, and counties are proud to have participated in similar former workgroups in the past. County governments, as funding partners in school construction and facility projects, are major stakeholders in HB 1390's reforms and workgroup establishment. However, counties are not included in the bill's suggested list of workgroup members, nor are local education agencies, who arguably have the most at stake in any findings and recommendations of the future workgroup. As such, MACo requests amendments to add these critical stakeholders to the workgroup's membership.

It is critical that counties and school systems – as the ultimate enactors of HB 1390's provisions and any future recommendations from the bill's proposed workgroup – have formal membership in this workgroup and others like it. They are the stakeholders closest to the construction needs, capacity, and processes for Maryland's public schools. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 1390 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report **with those amendments**.