



**Maryland Joint  
Legislative Committee**

*The Voice of Merit Construction*

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
From: Associated Builders & Builders Contractors  
RE: SB 110 - School Construction - Local Cost-Share - Alterations  
Position: Favorable

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) represent more than 1500 construction and construction-related companies through its four Maryland chapters. Our members believe in the tenants of free enterprise, investing in their workforce and giving back to the communities in which they live, work and play.

Senate Bill 110 creates a new adjustment to the local and State cost share of school construction projects that meet specified criteria. To be eligible for the adjustment (1) the percentage of students in the county eligible for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM) must be greater than the statewide average; (2) all schools in the county must participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP); (3) the State and local cost share must be 50% State and 50% local; and (4) the eligible project must be a school that is the only elementary, middle, or high school in the county. Counties with eligible projects must have the local cost share for that project reduced to equal the average cost share of counties in which all schools participate in CEP.

ABC supports public policy that will invest in educational infrastructure critical to Maryland communities. The Local Cost-Share model equitably shares the financial responsibility between local and state entities and ensures the development of high-quality educational facilities – especially in rural counties. This legislation will not only benefit the construction industry but will also significantly contribute to the well-being and future educational success of our communities.

ABC appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Seante Bill 110.