

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 714

(Senator Ferguson, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

**Baltimore City - 10-Year Plan for Public School Facilities - Neighborhood
Revitalization and Community Development**

This bill requires the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (BCBSC) and the coordinating committee established under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to take specified steps to enhance neighborhood revitalization and community development in Baltimore City.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any increased role for the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) in its capacity as a member of the coordinating committee can be carried out with existing budgeted resources. Any changes in school building plans related to the community involvement required by the bill has no effect on State finances but may have an operational effect on the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) and its constituent agencies that review and approve school designs.

Local Effect: Baltimore City can carry out the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources. Any changes in school building plans related to the community involvement required by the bill has no effect on Baltimore City finances but may have an operational effect on Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS).

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary: BCBSC must provide residents and community leaders in each neighborhood or geographic location that surrounds a public school facility scheduled for renovation, replacement, or closure with (1) a schedule of public school facility projects in the neighborhood and (2) an opportunity to coordinate neighborhood revitalization and community development efforts with a school design team working in their neighborhoods.

The coordinating committee established by the MOU required under State law must:

- provide residents and community leaders with an opportunity to communicate their neighborhood revitalization and community development efforts and goals to the committee;
- consult with appropriate State agencies that may assist with neighborhood revitalization and community development; and
- make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to include, as appropriate, funding for neighborhood revitalization and community development projects in the operating or capital budget for the city.

Current Law: Chapter 647 of 2013 designated State and local funding sources to support a \$1.1 billion public school construction and revitalization initiative for Baltimore City. Included in Chapter 647 was a requirement that Baltimore City, IAC, BCBSC, and MSA enter into a four-party MOU to establish a framework for completion of the initiative. The MOU was completed and signed in September 2013.

Background: The basis for the construction initiative is a 10-Year Plan developed by BCPS for the closure, replacement, or renovation of every building owned by BCBSC, which was issued in November 2012. The 10-Year Plan includes vacating 26 buildings, substantially renovating or replacing 49 buildings, and renovating 87 buildings (including 22 with additions). Phase 1 of the plan, projected to cost about \$1.1 billion and last about six years, addresses the bulk of the \$1.4 billion of the system's most pressing deficiencies, including constructing 15 new or replacement buildings, renovating approximately 30 to 35 school buildings, and closing approximately 26 schools or buildings.

The MOU establishes a coordinating committee consisting of representatives from the Mayor's Office, BCPS, MSA, and Baltimore City departments of housing, parks and recreation, and planning. The committee must meet at least quarterly to maximize the

mutual benefits of the investments in 10-Year Plan projects and community revitalization efforts within and across Baltimore City neighborhoods. As required by the MOU, BCBSC approved new facility utilization targets in December 2013; the targets phase up from the 77% utilization level in the 2012-2013 school year to 86% by school year 2019-2020.

Small Business Effect: Small businesses in and around school construction projects in Baltimore City may benefit from community revitalization efforts connected to those projects.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1062 (Delegate Haynes, *et al.*) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Board of Public Works, Public School Construction Program, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2014
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