

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 593
Appropriations

(Prince George's County Delegation)

**Prince George's County - Public Schools - Criteria for Building Surveys and
Inspections
PG 409-15**

This bill requires the Prince George's County Board of Education to establish specific criteria for evaluating the condition of public school buildings and facilities in the county. The criteria specified in the bill must be given the same weight as any other criteria required by the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) or the county board. A survey or inspection of public school buildings in the county must use all of the criteria to assess the adequacy of each building, and the school board may adopt regulations to implement the bill

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill applies only to Prince George's County.

Local Effect: None. The Prince George's County Board of Education advises that it is already complying with the bill requirements.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The criteria established by the school board must include:

- total amount of square footage per pupil;
- health and environmental safety standards;
- security features and standards;
- energy efficiency standards;
- modern technology standards; and
- building accessibility features.

Current Law: Subject to the final approval of the Board of Public Works (BPW), IAC manages State review and approval of local school construction projects. Statute requires BPW to develop regulations governing the approval of local public school construction projects including, among other requirements, a requirement that local education agencies adopt, implement, and periodically update comprehensive maintenance plans. IAC must assist the Prince George's County Board of Education in developing an education facility master plan that encourages and supports the neighborhood school concept; the plan must be updated annually.

Background: The Public School Construction Program advises that Prince George's County has conducted three public school facility condition assessments in the past 15 years. Prince George's County advises that the school system is already conducting a Master Plan Support Project, the scope of which encompasses the bill's requirements.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Prince George's County, Public School Construction Program, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2015
md/rhh

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