

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 221
Appropriations

(Delegate Bromwell, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

Local Government – School Construction – Permits

This bill requires each county or municipality, to the extent practicable, to expedite the process for the application and issuance of a permit related to or required for the construction of a public or private school facility. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill pertains only to local governments.

Local Effect: Local governments can handle the bill’s requirements with existing resources. To the extent expediting permits keeps school construction projects on schedule, additional costs related to project delays may be avoided. No effect on local revenues.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Construction” is defined as the process of building, altering, repairing, renovating, improving, or demolishing any structure, building, or other improvement to real property. It includes systemic renovation projects as defined in State regulations.

“School facility” is defined as a structure, building, parking facility, athletic facility, testing facility, or any other facility in the State that is used for the education of students.

Current Law: With the approval of the State Superintendent, each county board of education may buy or otherwise acquire land, school sites, or buildings and rent, repair,

improve, and build school buildings or approve contracts for doing so, if the plans conform to requirements of the State Board of Education. The construction or remodeling of a school building must conform to all applicable State and county building, electrical, fire, and plumbing regulations and codes. A fee may not be charged for a permit necessary to comply with the regulations and codes, except for water and sewer permits or for connection and service charges for water and sewer services.

There is no requirement that local governments expedite the processing of permit applications.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Dorchester, Garrett, and Montgomery counties; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; Public School Construction Program; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 4, 2018
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