

SB0109-BT_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Brianna January

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 109

Interagency Commission on School Construction - Systemic Renovation Projects - Eligibility

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: January 19, 2023

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 109. This bill would expand eligibility for systemic school project funding as established by the Built to Learn Act and would offer counties greater flexibility in pursuing a variety of systemic projects.

Currently, systemic school projects, such as updating HVAC units, are only eligible for financing under the Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund if they meet a minimum total cost of \$4 million, a rather arbitrary figure that effectively denies meritorious smaller-scale improvements.

By nature, the current eligibility requirements exclude many important school systemic projects that happen to fall below \$4 million from accessing these funds, and, ultimately, some of these projects have either been delayed or shelved.

SB 109 seeks to sensibly remedy this by decreasing the \$4 million minimum requirement to \$100,000 and expanding eligibility to more systemic projects. Not only will this greatly increase counties' flexibility to meet the challenging needs of school revitalization and maintenance of critical systems as set forth by the Built to Learn Act, but it will also allow them to pursue more of these critical projects by increasing the accessible pool of funding from which they can do so.

Maryland's students deserve to learn in the best and safest school facilities we can provide for them, and systemic upgrades - large and small - deliver on that promise. SB 109 is a reasonable step to do so by giving all systemic projects a fair chance at equal consideration and financing. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 109 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

SB109_MSEA_Gobel_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Christian Gobel

Position: FAV

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 109
Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation
Projects – Eligibility**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
January 19, 2023
Christian Gobel
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) supports Senate Bill 109. This bill requires the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) to consider systemic renovation projects eligible for funding from the Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund, so long as the construction cost for the systemic renovation project is at least \$100,000. Senate Bill 109 applies in fiscal years 2024 through 2026. We believe this bill is necessary to ensure local school systems have the flexibility and resources to maintain safe and healthy schools for students and educators.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Systemic renovation projects, approved under the State capital improvement program, install, upgrade, replace, or renovate building systems or system components.¹ Building systems or system components include architectural and structural, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, fire safety, communications, and vertical conveying systems.²

¹ Md. Code Regs. 14.39.02.15(B)

² *Id.*



The IAC and Maryland Stadium Authority have issued guidance that requires local school systems systemic renovation projects to cost at least \$4,000,000.00 in order to be eligible for state funding under the Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund.³ MSEA believes the current cost eligibility threshold to access these critical state funds unduly restricts essential and necessary school renovation projects and replacement components for these essential building systems, especially in smaller counties.

No student or educator should have to learn or work in a school with a roof leaking water, an HVAC system that does not provide adequate heating in winter or air conditioning in summer, or out-of-service elevators because of a construction cost threshold to access critical financing for school renovation projects. All students and educators deserve high-quality school facilities where conditions are most conducive to learning, thriving, and working.

MSEA believes Senate Bill 109 takes a meaningful step toward achieving that goal by lowering the construction cost eligibility threshold to \$100,000 for access to financing systemic renovation projects from Built to Learn Act funds.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 109.

³ See, Interagency Commission on School Construction and Maryland Stadium Authority, *FAQs on the Built to Learn (BTL) Program*, 6 (Nov. 15, 2022) accessed, <https://iac.mdschoolconstruction.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/FAQs-on-the-Built-to-Learn-Act-2022-11.pdf>; See also, Interagency Commission on School Construction and Maryland Stadium Authority, *State of Maryland Built to Learn Act Program and Allocations*, p 8-9 (Dec. 1, 2021) accessed, <https://iac.mdschoolconstruction.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/BTL-PUBLICATION-December-2022-Update-V2.1.pdf>.

SB109 - IAC - Systemic Renoation Projects - Eligib

Uploaded by: Dawana Sterrette

Position: FAV

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Jhnette A. Richardson
Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
In Support of
Senate Bill 109 –
Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation
Projects – Eligibility**

January 19, 2023

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports Senate Bill 109. The Baltimore City Public School System (City Schools) has the oldest building stock in the State. City Schools also receives \$19 million from the City of Baltimore for its annual capital improvement plan and about \$28 - \$32 million annually in the CIP from the State. With the oldest building stock in the State, many school buildings have very outdated systemics, therefore much of the need is for systemic renovations as well as for major capital improvements.

When the Built to Learn Act was enacted, it provides for additional funding for school construction. This school board will be using the funding to provide for the renovation of a few of its large high schools. However, we have seen escalation costs as high as 50% for major project renovations and 40% for systemics. The additional funding that the Built to Learn Act has provided has also been decreased by \$63 million for City Schools due to the bond market. Therefore, the need to allow for the bundling of systemics is greater than ever so that more flexibility is given.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports Senate Bill 109 and urges a favorable report.

Dawana Merritt Sterrette, Esq.
Director, Legislative and Government Affairs
dsterrette@bcps.k12.md.us
443-250-0190

Melissa Broome
Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs
mcbroome@bcps.k12.md.us
443-525-3038

SB 109.Systemic Project Eligibility Under BTL.pdf

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: FAV

BILL: Senate Bill 109
TITLE: Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility
DATE: January 19, 2023
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports Senate Bill 109, which would clarify that systemic projects costing at least \$100,000 become eligible for consideration and approval for funding under the Built to Learn Act.

MABE supports Senate Bill 109 because it is aligned with the equitable goal of ensuring that both the traditional Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the newer Built to Learn Act program administered by the Maryland Stadium Authority are available to local school systems as robust funding sources for new school construction, major renovations, and the typically much smaller systemic projects. Systemic projects include repair or replacement of structures such as roofs, walls, floors, and ceilings; and plumbing and mechanical systems such as heating, ventilation, air conditioning, water supply, electrical, sprinklers and fire detection, and elevators. Many of these smaller projects are integral to enhancing the health and safety of aging school facilities.

Local boards appreciate the State’s investments in the annual capital budget and targeted investments to support school safety projects, HVAC and lead remediation projects, energy efficiency projects, and designated funding for school systems with significant enrollment growth. In addition, the State has fulfilled the commitment to fund 21st Century school facilities in the Baltimore City Public School System, including net-zero schools. These initiatives demonstrate the State’s commitment to investing in high quality school facilities and learning environments for all students. The Built to Learn Act targets the bulk of its revenue stream to the largest 7 school systems in the State, but a substantial amount is also available to the other 17 school systems. MABE is confident that many of Maryland’s 24 school systems would benefit from the passage of Senate Bill 109.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 109.

SB0109 - B&T_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Joshua Greenberg

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG
Associate Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **SB 109**

TITLE: **Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic
Renovation Projects – Eligibility**

SPONSOR: **Senator Hester**

COMMITTEE: **Budget and Taxation**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **January 19, 2023**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** SB 109 - Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility. This legislation would include systemic renovations as eligible expenditures which qualify for funds provided by the Built to Learn Act.

In 2021, Baltimore County sent a letter to the Interagency Commission on School Construction to express its concerns about the inclusion of systemic renovations as eligible spending. The County, like many other jurisdictions throughout the State, is currently experiencing a backlog of critical projects which would improve the quality of life and education for its students. Projects such as roof replacements, electrical updates, and temperature control system replacements number among the many repairs and improvements that fit within the category of systemic renovations, and would be expedited by enhanced funding provided by the Built to Learn Act.

Our students cannot wait any longer for these critical upgrades. The County’s ambitious construction initiatives and continual funding for schools above maintenance of effort place tremendous strain on the availability of funds for systemic renovations. To continue the incredible progress we are seeing in school infrastructure around Maryland, it is essential that the State allow its once-in-a-lifetime investment encompass all infrastructure priorities of our schools

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 109. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.

SB109 Hester Testimony.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Katie Fry Hester

Position: FAV

KATIE FRY HESTER
Legislative District 9
Howard and Montgomery Counties

Education, Energy, and
Environment Committee

Chair, Joint Committee on
Cybersecurity, Information Technology
and Biotechnology



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 304
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3671 · 301-858-3671
800-492-7122 Ext. 3671
KatieFry.Hester@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB109 - Interagency Commission on School Construction -
Systemic Renovation Projects - Eligibility**

January 19th, 2023

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 109, which will require the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) to consider systemic renovations regardless of cost. As it currently stands, the IAC only considers systemic renovation efforts if the projects are valued above \$4M. Due to this requirement, many high-impact, low-cost projects are disqualified.

When we passed the Build to Learn Act of 2020, many of us anticipated funds from revenue bonds being used equally to cover the costs of new construction as well as renovation. Deferred maintenance in our public schools is just as common in Garrett County as it is in Howard County or on the Eastern Shore, so this funding is critical to keeping our students in safe, healthy learning environments. However, two years ago I spoke to the Howard County Executive and he brought to my attention the fact that several projects in Howard County – including boiler replacements and roofing at several of our elementary schools – fall below this \$4M figure. When I spoke with the Baltimore County Executive, who also supported this bill last year, he confirmed that many of their projects would be disqualified under the IAC's current interpretation. As such, my legislation would merely clarify this original intent.

Most of these necessary projects that would lose funding by the IAC's new consideration would disproportionately impact the most vulnerable students in our communities. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 109.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Fry Hester".

Senator Katie Fry Hester
Howard & Montgomery Counties

MBIA Letter of Support SB 109 (002).pdf

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: FAV

January 18, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building,
3 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Support SB 0109 - Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the **SB 0109 - Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility**. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version.

This bill would expand eligibility for systemic renovation projects to receive funding from the Supplemental Public-School Construction Financing Fund and the Supplemental Public-School Construction Facilities Fund. MBIA respectfully supports this measure. One of the major public concerns across the State of Maryland is the adequacy of school facilities to meet the demands of an increasing student population. Allowing the state to help finance more projects to improve the capacity of schools to meet student needs will help to maintain the high standards of education in the state of Maryland as the population grows and the demographics change over time. Additionally, renovation projects to expand school capacity take less time and show a faster benefit than new school construction which is time consuming and requires a large up-front cost. MBIA supports the use of efficient state funding to meet Maryland's education needs.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

SB 109 - MoCo_Wenger_FAV (GA 23).pdf

Uploaded by: Melanie Wenger

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 109

DATE: January 19, 2023

SPONSOR: Senator Hester

ASSIGNED TO: Budget and Taxation

CONTACT PERSON: Melanie Wenger (melanie.wenger@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support

Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility

Montgomery County supports Senate Bill 109, which would require the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) to allow Built to Learn funds to be allocated for systemic renovation projects for the next three fiscal years, regardless of the project cost.

Currently, the IAC and the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) are able to make various eligibility determination decisions based on the authority conveyed under the Built to Learn Act and other statutes. Based on that authority, the IAC and MSA restricted eligibility for Built to Learn funds to systemic renovation projects priced at \$4 million or more. While they allowed the bundling of projects to attain this threshold, particularly for subdivisions that had planned to utilize Built funds for backlogs of systemic renovation projects, placing this limit on eligibility was unanticipated and unwelcome.

Removing this limitation allows for greater flexibility in using Built to Learn funds for the next few years. It is a small but important step toward meeting the Administration's goal for the State to be able to "fund all local funding requests and provide our students with the healthy, efficient, heated, air-conditioned, and modern school buildings that they deserve."

For the aforementioned reasons, the County urges the Committee to act favorably on Senate Bill 109.