

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

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
January 19, 2023  
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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.<sup>1</sup> Building systems or system components include architectural and structural, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, fire safety, communications, and vertical conveying systems.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Md. Code Regs. 14.39.02.15(B)

<sup>2</sup> *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.<sup>3</sup> 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.**

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<sup>3</sup> 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>.