

**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.