



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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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.