

INFORMATIONAL
House Bill 1442
Workgroup to Study the Fiscal and Operational Viability of Public-Private
Partnerships for Howard County Public Schools - Established

House Appropriations Committee
March 12, 2024

Christian Gobel
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association offers this informational testimony on House Bill 1442. This legislation establishes a workgroup to study the fiscal and operational viability of public-private partnerships (P3s) for Howard County Public Schools.

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).

MSEA appreciates county and local governments taking the initiative to address the pressing need of modern, safe, and healthy public school facilities to make certain students, their families, and educators have high quality learning environments. MSEA supports funding for necessary school construction and renovation to ensure high-quality teaching and learning environments, including construction to reduce class size, expand universal pre-kindergarten, and meet appropriate school environmental health standards, which includes maintenance and improvements to HVAC systems.

MSEA encourages policymakers to include labor stakeholders on workgroups that explore the use of P3s for school construction projects or solicit and invite their input on P3 proposals, to ensure county and local governments maintain high labor standards on P3 school construction projects. Additionally, where applicable, P3s



should not be used to displace public school employees who perform the day-to-day work of public school facility maintenance and operation.

MSEA supports continued efforts to address school construction and renovation needs for students, families, and communities in a sustainable, prudent manner that serves the public interest.