

JASON C. GALLION  
Legislative District 35  
Harford and Cecil Counties

Education, Energy, and  
the Environment Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 414  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3603 · 301-858-3603  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3603  
Fax 410-841-3115 · 301-858-3115  
Jason.Gallion@senate.state.md.us

District Office  
64 S. Main Street  
Port Deposit, Maryland 21904

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair

Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

RE: SB170 – County Boards of Education – Hearing Notices and Bid Advertisements – Electronic Posting

Position: **Favorable**

Dear Chairman Feldman,

This legislation seeks to modernizes how local boards of education fulfill certain public notice requirements. The bill provides small but meaningful changes that will save money and enable school districts to reach the public more effectively.

First, the bill updates a specific public hearing notice requirement. Maryland public schools are required to hold a public hearing for a new school site under certain circumstances. Currently, if a hearing is to be held, it must be advertised in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. This bill would give the school board the option to advertise the hearing on their website instead.

Second, the bill updates requirements for advertising a public school system small procurement. Current state law provides three options for advertisement: 1) a newspaper, 2) Maryland Contract Weekly, or 3) both electronic and physical posting on a bid board. The latter two options are extremely outdated. Maryland Contract Weekly ceased publication in 2006; the eMaryland Marketplace is the State of Maryland's current online procurement system for all solicitations for state, county, schools, and universities. Similarly, physical bid boards are an outdated option. This bill allows school boards to use modern methods of advertising procurements.

Providing for online posting of this information can save county boards of education money as they grapple with tight budgets. The newspaper advertising requirement dates back to the 1970s and is not a particularly effective means of providing information to the public in the 21st century. This bill will allow our local boards of education to operate more efficiently, promptly, at lower cost, and with broader reach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Gallion".

Jason Gallion

Senator, District 35