



190 W. Ostend St., #101
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410-547-1515
Email: info@afscmemd.org

Patrick Moran – President

**HB 69 - Community Development Administration - Live Near Where You Teach
Program – Establishment
Environment and Transportation Committee**

January 30, 2024

FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 69. We represent non-instructional staff in K-12 schools districts across Maryland. Our custodians, bus drivers, and maintenance staff are often the lowest-paid employees in the school system and often have difficulty accessing affordable housing near the schools where they work. This legislation authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development to administer home buyer and rental assistance programs to help school staff access housing near the schools where they work. The home buyer program assists school staff members with receiving low-interest mortgage loans, and down payment and closing cost assistance. The rental assistance program offers new school staff members \$1,000 per month in housing assistance for the first 18 months of full-time employment if the staff member lives near their school.

With raising housing costs, benefits like these go a long way in recruiting and retaining quality staff. DHCD has similar programs already and we encourage continued investment in helping public employees live near where they work and serve their communities.

We urge the committee to provide a favorable report.