



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: SB818 - Education – School Building Energy Usage – Monthly Report

DATE: February 21, 2025

MEA Position: LETTER OF INFORMATION

Senate Bill 818 would require each county board of education to collect and report energy usage data to the Interagency Commission on School Construction, which would additionally be tasked with adopting regulations that specify the data to be collected, along with the means and frequency of reporting.

Energy benchmarking efforts to track a building's annual energy use are important first steps to identify energy efficiency opportunities. Before school systems move forward with energy benchmarking, it is important to ensure that they have sufficient staffing and financial resources available to track and analyze energy use over time. The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) recognizes that not every board of education has the staffing capabilities to sufficiently collect data from every building, and may not have additional funds to allocate for an additional role.

MEA has several existing programs that are designed to support local governments, state agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and communities as they engage in sustainable, clean energy projects. MEA's Decarbonizing Public Schools Program provides support to public schools for energy monitoring. MEA encourages the committee to include these existing programs in their consideration of Senate Bill 818.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.