
By: ~~Delegate Busch~~ **Delegates Busch and Rudolph**
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Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
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CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Public School Construction - ~~State Share for Schools with~~**
3 **Low-Income Students Task Force to Study Public School Facilities**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the State to provide, in certain counties, a certain~~
5 ~~percentage of the eligible costs for public school construction projects for schools~~
6 ~~in which a certain percentage of the students are eligible for free and reduced~~
7 ~~price meals; providing for the prospective application of this Act; and generally~~
8 ~~relating to public school construction in schools with low-income students~~
9 ~~establishing a Task Force to Study Public School Facilities; requiring the task~~
10 ~~force to submit findings and recommendations to the Governor and General~~
11 ~~Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of the task~~
12 ~~force on a certain date; providing for the abrogation of this Act; and generally~~
13 ~~relating to public school facilities.~~

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in counties for which the State~~
17 ~~share of eligible costs for public school construction projects is less than 75%, the~~
18 ~~State shall provide 75% of the eligible costs for public school construction projects for~~
19 ~~any school in which 50% or more of the students in the school are eligible for free and~~
20 ~~reduced price meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42~~
21 ~~U.S.C. 1751, et seq.~~

22 (b) ~~The provisions of this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively~~
23 ~~and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any~~
24 ~~project initiated before the effective date of this Act.~~

1 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect~~
2 ~~July 1, 2002.~~

3 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Public School Facilities.

4 (b) The task force shall review, evaluate, and make findings and
5 recommendations regarding the following issues relating to the State's public school
6 construction program:

7 (1) whether public school facilities are adequate to support programs
8 funded through an adequate operating budget as proposed by the Commission on
9 Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence in its January 2002 Final Report;

10 (2) the equity of the State's public school construction program,
11 particularly the equity of the State and local cost shares for school construction
12 projects;

13 (3) whether the Aging Schools Program should be continued as a
14 permanent program;

15 (4) whether the State should provide a greater share of eligible costs for:

16 (i) schools with 50% or more of the students eligible for free and
17 reduced price meals;

18 (ii) small schools constructed or renovated in a priority funding
19 area; and

20 (iii) schools in qualified distressed counties as defined in Article
21 83A, § 5-701 of the Code; and

22 (5) any other matter that the task force determines to be relevant to an
23 evaluation of the adequacy and equity of the State's public school construction
24 program.

25 (c) The task force shall be composed of 21 members as follows:

26 (1) a chairman, appointed by the Governor;

27 (2) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
28 of the Senate;

29 (3) two members of the House of Delegates of Maryland, appointed by
30 the Speaker of the House;

31 (4) the Executive Director of the Interagency Committee on School
32 Construction;

33 (5) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the State Superintendent's
34 designee;

1 (6) the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, or the
2 Secretary's designee;

3 (7) the Secretary of the Department of General Services, or the
4 Secretary's designee;

5 (8) a member of the State Board of Education, appointed by the
6 Governor;

7 (9) three representatives of county governments, appointed by the
8 Governor;

9 (10) three representatives of local boards of education, appointed by the
10 Governor;

11 (11) three educators who work in public schools in the State, appointed by
12 the Governor; and

13 (12) two members of the public, appointed by the Governor.

14 (d) To the extent practicable, the Governor shall attempt to ensure regional,
15 ethnic, economic, and gender diversity on the task force.

16 (e) The Interagency Committee on School Construction, the Maryland State
17 Department of Education, the Department of Budget and Management, and the
18 Department of Legislative Services, jointly, shall provide staff support to the task
19 force.

20 (f) The task force shall:

21 (1) be appointed and begin its deliberations no later than June 1, 2002;
22 and

23 (2) submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor
24 and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General
25 Assembly on or before December 31, 2002.

26 (g) The task force shall terminate on December 31, 2002.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 June 1, 2002. It shall remain in effect for a period of 7 months, and at the end of
29 December 31, 2002, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
30 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

