

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 734
Appropriations

(Washington County Delegation)

Budget and Taxation

Washington County - Advisory School Design Review Committee

This bill repeals the termination of the Washington County Advisory School Design Review Committee, codifies its existence in the Public Local Laws of Washington County, and expands the committee’s role in reviewing school capital improvement project designs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill affects only Washington County.

Local Effect: Washington County expenditures related to the operation of the Advisory School Design Review Committee continue beyond June 30, 2011.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The committee’s review functions are expanded to begin at the schematic design stage of a capital improvement project instead of the design development stage. The Washington County Board of Education (WCBoE) must provide the committee with a schedule of project milestones for each capital improvement project at the schematic design stage. The “schematic design stage” is defined as the period of time when a project’s initial design concepts, including basic floor plans, exterior building elevations, and building cross sections, are developed.

The committee may submit comments to WCBoE after reviewing each stage of the project design.

Current Law: Chapter 598 of 2005 required the Washington County Board of County Commissioners to establish the advisory committee to review all construction plans for school capital improvement projects costing more than \$2 million. The committee's role is to ensure that the construction and operational plans for each project provide an effective educational environment in a cost-efficient manner. The committee was charged with beginning its review of each project during the design development stage, which is defined as the point when the overall design for a project is approximately 60% complete.

After completing its review of each project, the committee must submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the county commissioners and WCBoE, which must jointly review the recommendations before advertising for competitive bids. The county commissioners are responsible for determining whether a capital improvement project may proceed to bidding and are not bound by the committee's recommendations.

Authorization for the advisory committee terminates June 30, 2011.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management, Department of General Services, Public School Construction Program, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2010
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