

SENATE BILL 245

F1, P2

3lr1241
CF HB 103

By: **Senator Robey**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2013

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **School Buildings – Solar Technology – Design Development Documents**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Board of Public Works to adopt certain regulations
4 requiring certain design development documents for the construction or
5 renovation of school buildings to include certain information relating to the use
6 of solar technology; requiring the Interagency Committee on School
7 Construction to submit a certain report that includes certain information to the
8 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; and
9 generally relating to school buildings and solar technology.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 5–301.1
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, State and county school buildings offer large flat surfaces that are
17 ideal for the installation of solar panels; and

18 WHEREAS, School buildings are also usually a great distance away from tall
19 buildings and trees, making them ideally exposed to sunlight; and

20 WHEREAS, In these times of tight school board budgets, the generation of
21 electricity could provide local school boards with an additional funding source or
22 cost-saving measure; now, therefore,

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1

Article – Education

2 5–301.1.

3 (a) (1) There is a solar energy pilot program to promote the use of solar
4 energy systems to generate electricity in public school buildings in the State.

5 (2) The pilot program shall be implemented and administered by the
6 Interagency Committee on School Construction and shall operate as provided in this
7 section.

8 (b) The Interagency Committee shall:

9 (1) Encourage all local boards in the State to study, design, and
10 construct or renovate school buildings that are energy efficient and use solar energy
11 systems to generate electricity to meet some of the school building's electrical energy
12 needs, electrical energy demand, or a combination of the electrical energy needs and
13 electrical energy demand;

14 (2) Provide grants out of State funds dedicated for this program to
15 local boards to assist in implementing the use of solar energy systems at existing
16 public schools or in new or renovated school building projects; and

17 (3) Develop a procedure for a local board to apply for a grant in
18 accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

19 (c) (1) A local board may apply to the Interagency Committee for a grant
20 to cover 90% of the cost to purchase and install a solar energy system to generate a
21 portion of the school building's electrical energy needs or electrical energy demand.

22 (2) A local board that receives a grant under this subsection shall pay:

23 (i) 10% of the cost to purchase and install the solar energy
24 system; and

25 (ii) All architectural or engineering fees for the design and
26 supervision of the installation of the solar energy system.

27 (3) The Interagency Committee may award a grant under this section
28 for a solar energy system project with the approval of the Board of Public Works.

29 (d) Local school systems are encouraged to seek private funding to
30 implement the pilot program.

31 (e) The total savings of electrical energy needs and electrical energy demand
32 costs that result from the installation and use of solar energy systems under this
33 section shall remain with the local school system.

1 (f) (1) The Interagency Committee and the Maryland Energy
2 Administration shall cooperate with, assist, provide technical assistance to, and advise
3 school systems to identify appropriate existing public school buildings and public
4 school construction projects that would benefit from the installation of solar energy
5 systems.

6 (2) The Interagency Committee shall adopt procedures necessary to
7 implement this section.

8 **(G) THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT**
9 **REQUIRE THE DESIGN DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR**
10 **RENOVATION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS SUBMITTED BY A COUNTY BOARD TO THE**
11 **INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE:**

12 **(1) AN EVALUATION OF THE USE OF SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES,**
13 **INCLUDING PHOTOVOLTAIC OR SOLAR WATER HEATING, BASED ON LIFE CYCLE**
14 **COSTS; AND**

15 **(2) IF AN EVALUATION DETERMINES THAT SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES**
16 **ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION PROJECT, A**
17 **REPORT THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE USE OF THE TECHNOLOGY IS NOT**
18 **APPROPRIATE.**

19 **(H) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 OF EACH YEAR, THE INTERAGENCY**
20 **COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL**
21 **CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION PROJECTS IN EACH JURISDICTION THAT USE**
22 **SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
23 **2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 June 1, 2013.