HOUSE BILL 1511

By: Howard County Delegation
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020
Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Howard County – Board of Education – Redetermination of Geographic Attendance Areas

Ho. Co. 01–20

FOR the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education to submit a certain annual report on the program capacity of each permanent school facility, beginning in a certain school year; requiring the county board to submit a certain report to the General Assembly and the Howard County Delegation to the General Assembly under certain circumstances; requiring the county board to implement certain processes set out in a certain policy to make a certain assessment; requiring the county board to submit a certain report to the General Assembly and the Howard County Delegation regarding the outcome of a certain assessment under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the target utilization of permanent school facilities in Howard County.

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 4–138
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, In an effort to ensure that every child in Howard County receives an outstanding education, it is important for the Howard County Board of Education to review and alter geographic attendance area boundaries from time to time to ensure that school capacity issues are adequately addressed; and

WHEREAS, These redistricting efforts must carefully balance overcrowding and vacancy issues with the maintenance of community stability to ensure minimal disruption

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
for children and their families; now, therefore,

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

Article – Education

4–138.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
INDICATED.

(2) “PROGRAM CAPACITY” MEANS THE PROGRAM CAPACITY SET BY
THE HOWARD COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM’S POLICY 6010 OR ITS SUCCESSOR POLICY.

(3) “TARGET UTILIZATION” MEANS THE TARGET UTILIZATION SET BY
THE HOWARD COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM’S POLICY 6010 OR ITS SUCCESSOR POLICY.

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN HOWARD COUNTY.

(C) BEGINNING IN THE 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR, THE HOWARD COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY AND THE HOWARD COUNTY DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE
PROGRAM CAPACITY OF EACH PERMANENT SCHOOL FACILITY BASED ON THE RATES
FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOLS SET BY THE COUNTY BOARD.

(D) (1) IF STUDENT ENROLLMENT AT A PERMANENT SCHOOL FACILITY IS
NOT WITHIN 10% OF TARGET UTILIZATION, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL REPORT TO
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE HOWARD COUNTY DELEGATION TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT
ARTICLE, EACH YEAR THE PERMANENT SCHOOL FACILITY IS NOT WITHIN 10% OF
THE TARGET UTILIZATION ON A PLAN TO ADJUST STUDENT ENROLLMENT TO MEET
TARGET UTILIZATION.

(2) (I) IF STUDENT ENROLLMENT AT A PERMANENT SCHOOL
FACILITY IS NOT WITHIN 20% OF TARGET UTILIZATION, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL
IMPLEMENT THE PROCESSES SET OUT IN THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL
SYSTEM’S POLICY 6010, OR ITS SUCCESSOR POLICY, TO ASSESS THE NEED FOR A
REDETERMINATION OF THE GEOGRAPHIC ATTENDANCE AREA.

(ii) IF THE OUTCOME OF THE ASSESSMENT UNDER
SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IS NOT A REDETERMINATION OF THE
GEOGRAPHIC ATTENDANCE AREA, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO
1. An explanation of the reason a redetermination was not appropriate; and

2. A plan to adjust student enrollment to meet target utilization.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.