HOUSE BILL 1124

By: Delegate Adams
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Primary and Secondary Education – Local School Systems – Budget Reporting

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each local school system, on or before certain dates for certain
4 years, to report to the Accountability and Implementation Board on all expenditures
5 in the local school system’s annual budget, disaggregated by each major budget
6 category; requiring the Board to provide a local government with a copy of the report
7 on request; and generally relating to local school systems and budget reporting.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 5–401(a) and (b)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 5–406
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

20 Article – Education

21 5–401.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

23 (b) “Board” means the Accountability and Implementation Board.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
Brackets indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(a) The Board shall review the use of funds provided under Subtitle 2 of this title by the State and local government agencies responsible for implementing the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

(b) (1) On or before January 1 each year in 2022 through 2032, the Department shall submit to the Board information on the use of school-level expenditures in the current fiscal year to aid the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities under this subtitle.

[(2) (i)] (II) Subject to subparagraph [(ii)] (III) of this paragraph, each local school system shall report to the Department, in a manner determined by the Department, on school-level spending to aid the Department in fulfilling its obligations under this subtitle.

[(ii)] (III) Each local school system that includes public charter schools shall account in the report required under this subsection for the distribution of school-level funding to public charter schools to demonstrate compliance with § 5–234 of this title.

(2) On or before November 1 and March 1 each year in 2022 through 2032, each local school system shall report to the Board, in a manner determined by the Board, on all expenditures in the local school system’s annual budget, disaggregated by each major budget category.

(3) On request, the Board shall provide a local government with a copy of a report required under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(c) The Board shall monitor the expenditures of local school systems to ensure that minimum school-level funding requirements under § 5–234 of this title are met.

(d) The Board shall monitor the expenditures of funding provided to local school systems under § 5–223 of this title to ensure that public schools are providing the necessary services.

(e) (1) The Board shall monitor how additional special education funding provided under § 5–225 of this title is being used, including:

(i) The aggregate number of children in special education services by school; and

(ii) The special education services that have been provided through funding under § 5–225 of this title.
(2) If a local school system is not spending funding allocated under § 5–225 of this title in addition to special education spending levels provided by State and local funds on June 30, 2020, the local school system shall provide a written response to the Board explaining why additional spending on special education is not necessary.

(f) The Board shall develop an appeals process through which local school systems may request greater flexibility in meeting this requirement for reasons including a significant shift in total enrollment or at–promise enrollment between schools from the prior school year to the current school year.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.