

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 300
Appropriations

(Delegate Bhandari, *et al.*)

School Buildings - Solar Technology - Solar Panels on Schools

This bill requires local school systems to consider, for new schools constructed between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2034, whether to install solar panels on the roof of the new school. If a local school system elects not to install solar panels on the roof of a newly constructed school, it must provide an explanation to the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC). The bill clarifies the recipients and expands the requirements for a related annual report by IAC. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. IAC can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None. Local school systems already conduct the assessments required by the bill and can carry out any additional reporting requirements with existing budgeted resources. No effect on local revenues.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill adds a requirement that an existing annual report by IAC include a list of public school construction and major renovation projects that decided not to install solar panels on their roofs and an explanation for each of those decisions. It also clarifies that the annual report be delivered to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House (instead of “the General Assembly”).

Current Law: IAC must adopt regulations that require design development documents for the construction or major renovation of school buildings include:

- an evaluation of the use of solar technologies, including photovoltaic or solar water heating, based on life cycle costs; and
- if an evaluation determines that solar technologies are not appropriate for a new school or major renovation of a school, an explanation of why the technology is not appropriate.

By December 31 of each year, IAC must submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the number of public school construction and major renovation projects in each jurisdiction that use solar technologies.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: SB 235 (Senator West) - Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Public School Construction Program; Baltimore City Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 2023
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