

HOUSE BILL 291

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4r0605
CF SB 170

By: **Delegate Palakovich Carr**

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2024

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Bid Advertisement Threshold and Electronic**
3 **Posting of Hearing Notices and Bid Advertisements**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing county boards of education to post certain hearing notices
5 and bid advertisements on the websites of certain local school systems; increasing
6 the threshold amount of costs of school buildings, improvements, supplies, and
7 equipment that require county boards to advertise for bids; updating the reference
8 to the State’s centralized procurement platform on which county boards may
9 advertise for certain bids; and generally relating to county boards of education, the
10 bid advertisement threshold, and electronic posting of notices and advertisements.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Education
13 Section 4–116(b) and 5–112(b)(1)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Education**

19 4–116.

20 (b) (1) If a county board gives preliminary approval of a school site, the county
21 board shall hold a public hearing if:

22 (i) It considers it desirable;

23 (ii) 100 or more adult residents of the county petition in writing for
24 a hearing; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (iii) The county commissioners or county council asks for a hearing.

2 (2) The hearing shall be held on at least 10 days' notice, published at least
3 once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county **OR POSTED ELECTRONICALLY**
4 **ON THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM WEBSITE**, to give all interested persons an opportunity
5 to present their views.

6 (3) Any petition by residents of the county shall be filed at the office of the
7 county board within 15 days after the board gives preliminary approval of the site.

8 (4) If a hearing is held, minutes shall be kept and, after deliberation, the
9 county board shall send the minutes of the hearing and its recommendation to the State
10 Superintendent for use in making a decision on his approval of the site.

11 (5) A request for site approval may not be made to the State
12 Superintendent by a county board until 15 days pass after its action recommending the site
13 or, if a hearing is held, until after the hearing, whichever occurs last.

14 5-112.

15 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, **IN ADDITION**
16 **TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 17-502 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT**
17 **ARTICLE**, if the cost of any school building, improvement, supplies, or equipment is more
18 than **[\$25,000] \$100,000**, the county board, at least 2 weeks before bids are to be filed,
19 shall advertise for bids in a medium accessible to the general public, which includes:

20 (i) A newspaper of general circulation in the region;

21 (ii) **[The Maryland Contract Weekly or comparable State**
22 **publication] EMARYLAND MARKETPLACE**; or

23 (iii) An electronic posting on **[a bid board and physical posting on]**
24 **the local school system [bid board] WEBSITE**.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
26 1, 2024.