

HOUSE BILL 291

F1

4r0605
CF SB 170

By: **Delegate Palakovich Carr**

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2024

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 13, 2024

CHAPTER _____

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

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Education
14 Section 4–116(b) and 5–112(b)(1)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Education**

20 4–116.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 (i) It considers it desirable;

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 5-112.

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

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

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

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

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
31 1, 2024.