

Chapter 274

(House Bill 291)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

Article – Education

4–116.

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

- (i) It considers it desirable;
- (ii) 100 or more adult residents of the county petition in writing for a hearing; or
- (iii) The county commissioners or county council asks for a hearing.

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

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

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

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

5-112.

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.