

# HOUSE BILL 1176

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6lr0972

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By: **Howard County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County – Board of Education Budget – Minimum Funding**

3 **Ho. Co. 10–26**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the County Executive of Howard County from submitting  
5 and the Howard County Council from approving a budget that appropriates less than  
6 a certain amount of funding to the Howard County Board of Education, subject to a  
7 certain contingency; and generally relating to the Howard County Board of  
8 Education budget.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – Education  
11 Section 1–101(a) and (d)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – Education  
16 Section 5–103  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Education**

22 1–101.

23 (a) In this article, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words have  
24 the meanings indicated.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (d) "County board" means the board of education of a county and includes the  
2 Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

3 5-103.

4 (a) The amount requested in the annual budget of each county board for current  
5 expenses for the next school year and that is to be raised by revenue from local sources may  
6 not be less than the minimum amount required to be levied under § 5-202(d)(1)(i) of this  
7 title.

8 (b) The county commissioners or county council may provide funds that are more  
9 than the amount required by § 5-202(d)(1)(i) of this title to support improved and additional  
10 programs.

11 (c) If a county council or board of county commissioners does not approve the  
12 amount requested in the budget that is more than the amount required by § 5-202(d)(1)(i)  
13 of this title:

14 (1) The county council or board of county commissioners:

15 (i) May not reduce the amount requested in the budget that is  
16 dedicated to satisfying a final court judgment; and

17 (ii) Shall indicate in writing, within 15 days after the adoption of the  
18 budget, which major categories of the annual budget have been reduced and the reason for  
19 the reduction; and

20 (2) The county board shall submit to the county governing body, within 30  
21 days after the adoption of the budget, a report indicating how the alterations to the budget  
22 will be implemented, accompanied by reasonable supporting detail and analysis.

23 **(D) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
24 **THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF HOWARD COUNTY MAY NOT SUBMIT AND THE HOWARD**  
25 **COUNTY COUNCIL MAY NOT APPROVE AN ANNUAL BUDGET THAT APPROPRIATES**  
26 **FUNDING TO THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IN AN AMOUNT THAT IS**  
27 **LESS THAN 58% OF THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE OF THE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL**  
28 **YEAR.**

29 **(2) IF THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD REQUESTS AN AMOUNT IN THE**  
30 **ANNUAL BUDGET THAT IS LESS THAN 58% OF THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE OF THE**  
31 **COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF HOWARD COUNTY**  
32 **SHALL SUBMIT AND THE HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL APPROVE AN ANNUAL**  
33 **BUDGET THAT APPROPRIATES FUNDING TO THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD IN THE**  
34 **AMOUNT REQUESTED.**

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
2   1, 2026.