

# HOUSE BILL 1176

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By: **Howard County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Reassigned: Appropriations, February 16, 2026

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County – Board of Education Budget – Minimum Funding Percentage**  
3 **of County General Fund Revenue**

4 **Ho. Co. 10–26**

5 FOR the purpose of ~~prohibiting the County Executive of Howard County from submitting~~  
6 ~~and the Howard County Council from approving a budget that appropriates less than~~  
7 ~~a certain amount of funding to the Howard County Board of Education, subject to a~~  
8 ~~certain contingency~~ requiring, in the submission of the annual budget to the Howard  
9 County Council, the Howard County Executive to include the percentage of the  
10 county’s general fund revenue, excluding one–time expenses, that is allocated to the  
11 operating budget of the Howard County Board of Education and operating costs  
12 associated with the Howard County public school system; requiring a copy of the  
13 budget of the Howard County Board of Education as approved by the Howard County  
14 Council to include the percentage of the county’s general fund revenue, excluding  
15 one–time expenses, that is appropriated to the operating budget of the county board  
16 and operating costs associated with the school system; and generally relating to the  
17 Howard County Board of Education budget.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
19 Article – Education  
20 Section 1–101(a) and (d)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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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 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 2 Article – Education  
 3 Section ~~5-103~~ 5-102  
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 5 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – Education**

9 1-101.

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

12 (d) “County board” means the board of education of a county and includes the  
 13 Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

14 ~~5-103.~~

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

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

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

25 ~~(1) The county council or board of county commissioners:~~

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

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

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

1 ~~(D) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,~~  
2 ~~THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF HOWARD COUNTY MAY NOT SUBMIT AND THE HOWARD~~  
3 ~~COUNTY COUNCIL MAY NOT APPROVE AN ANNUAL BUDGET THAT APPROPRIATES~~  
4 ~~FUNDING TO THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IN AN AMOUNT THAT IS~~  
5 ~~LESS THAN 58% OF THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE OF THE COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL~~  
6 ~~YEAR.~~

7 ~~(2) IF THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD REQUESTS AN AMOUNT IN THE~~  
8 ~~ANNUAL BUDGET THAT IS LESS THAN 58% OF THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE OF THE~~  
9 ~~COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF HOWARD COUNTY~~  
10 ~~SHALL SUBMIT AND THE HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL APPROVE AN ANNUAL~~  
11 ~~BUDGET THAT APPROPRIATES FUNDING TO THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD IN THE~~  
12 ~~AMOUNT REQUESTED.~~

13 5-102.

14 (a) In this subtitle, "county council" means, in Baltimore City, the Mayor and City  
15 Council of Baltimore.

16 (b) (1) Each county board shall submit an annual school budget in writing to  
17 the county commissioners, county council, or county executive.

18 (2) The budget shall be submitted not less than 45 days before the date for  
19 levying local taxes or on an earlier date on or after March 1 as may be requested by the  
20 county fiscal authority.

21 (c) (1) This subsection applies only to a county that has a county governing  
22 body that consists of a county executive and county council.

23 (2) (I) The county executive shall indicate in writing which major  
24 categories of the annual budget of the county board have been denied in whole or reduced  
25 in part and the reason for the denial or reduction.

26 (II) IN HOWARD COUNTY, IN ADDITION TO THE INFORMATION  
27 REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, IN THE SUBMISSION OF  
28 THE ANNUAL BUDGET TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL, THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE SHALL  
29 INDICATE IN WRITING THE PERCENTAGE OF THE COUNTY'S GENERAL FUND  
30 REVENUE, EXCLUDING ONE-TIME EXPENSES, THAT IS ALLOCATED TO THE  
31 OPERATING BUDGET OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND OPERATING COSTS  
32 ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, INCLUDING:

33 1. PENSION OBLIGATIONS;

34 2. EMPLOYEE AND RETIREE BENEFITS;

1                                   **3.     DEBT SERVICE;**

2                                   **4.     SCHOOL AND STUDENT SAFETY; AND**

3                                   **5.     TRANSPORTATION.**

4                   (3)     The county council may restore any denial or reduction made by the  
5 county executive in the annual budget submitted by the county board.

6                   (4)     In Baltimore County, the County Council may not restore any denial or  
7 reduction made by the County Executive.

8                   (5)     This paragraph applies to Baltimore County and supersedes paragraph  
9 (4) of this subsection only if the voters of Baltimore County approve an amendment to the  
10 Baltimore County Charter that grants the County Council the authority to restore any  
11 denial or reduction made by the County Executive in the budget submitted by the county  
12 board. The Baltimore County Council may restore any denial or reduction made by the  
13 County Executive if it publicly states the amount the restoration represents in the county  
14 tax rate.

15                  (d)     (1)     In Baltimore City, the City Council may not restore any denial or  
16 reduction made by the Mayor.

17                   (2)     (i)     This paragraph applies to Baltimore City and supersedes  
18 paragraph (1) of this subsection only if the voters of Baltimore City approve an amendment  
19 to the Baltimore City Charter that grants the City Council the authority to restore any  
20 denial or reduction made by the Mayor in the budget submitted by the county board.

21                               (ii)     The Baltimore City Council may restore any denial or reduction  
22 made by the Mayor if it publicly states the amount the restoration represents in the city  
23 tax rate.

24                  (e)     (1)     Copies of the budget shall be made available to the public, on request,  
25 at the time it is submitted by the county board.

26                   (2)     (I)     A copy of the budget as approved by the county commissioners or  
27 county council shall be sent to the State Superintendent within 30 days after approval and  
28 posted on the county board's public-facing website, in an easily identifiable location.

29                               (II)     IN HOWARD COUNTY, A COPY OF THE BUDGET AS  
30 APPROVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL SHALL INCLUDE, IN WRITING, THE  
31 PERCENTAGE OF THE COUNTY'S GENERAL FUND REVENUE, EXCLUDING ONE-TIME  
32 EXPENSES, THAT IS APPROPRIATED TO THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE HOWARD  
33 COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND OPERATING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
34 HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, INCLUDING:

- 1                   **1. PENSION OBLIGATIONS;**
- 2                   **2. EMPLOYEE AND RETIREE BENEFITS;**
- 3                   **3. DEBT SERVICE;**
- 4                   **4. SCHOOL AND STUDENT SAFETY; AND**
- 5                   **5. TRANSPORTATION.**

6                   (3) A copy of the budget submitted under subsection (b)(1) of this section  
7 shall be placed on the county board’s public-facing website, in an easily identifiable  
8 location.

9                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
10 1, 2026.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.