

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
121 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: In Support of House Bill 1511 (Howard County – Board of Education – Redetermination of Geographic Attendance Areas Ho. Co. 01–20)**

Dear Chairwoman McIntosh:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, supports House Bill 1511 (Howard County – Board of Education – Redetermination of Geographic Attendance Areas Ho. Co. 01–20).

This measure requires the Howard County Board of Education (“BOE”) to annually calculate the program capacity of each public elementary, middle, and high schools. If a given school is not within the target utilization, the BOE must either redistrict that school or submit a plan to adjust the school’s utilization to the General Assembly and Howard County Delegation.

This is a positive contribution towards a comprehensive solution to Howard County’s school capacity challenges. Raising school facilities surcharges alone won’t make a difference when the County as a whole has sufficient capacity for students, but enrollment is not evenly distributed. This bill has the potential to help the County identify additional capacity and reallocate as necessary.

However, there is no guarantee that reallocation will occur. As currently drafted, if a school is over capacity, this bill allows a report to state legislators in lieu of redistricting. Immediate action to alleviate the capacity issue is not mandated. If Howard County schools are critically over capacity, urgent measures should be required. A simple report is not enough.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests that the Delegation amend this measure to *require* constructive action for schools that are over capacity, and give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: House Appropriations Committee Members