



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** House Bill 1 – Build to Learn Act of 2020

**SPONSOR:** The Speaker and Delegates McIntosh, Dumais, and M. Jackson

**HEARING DATE:** February 19, 2020

**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1**, which requires or authorizes, under certain circumstances, the Maryland Stadium Authority to contract for, manage, and oversee certain public school facility projects; authorizing the Prince George's County government and Board of Education to enter into a certain public-private partnership to enhance the delivery of public school construction projects in the county. HB1 requires the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2020, to include in the annual budget certain supplemental funding to be used for certain educational purposes; etc.

Prince George's County ranks among the top three oldest school facilities in the State. As of 2005, Prince George's County's public schools were nearly five years older than the State average; the deviation has only increased since. Older facilities regularly require extensive repair to critical building features, such as plumbing, roofing, electrical systems, and ventilation. Air quality, noise, classroom size, and temperature control are all factors associated with performance outcomes for students and teachers.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, even in the few cases where environmental issues are minimized, these facilities still fail to provide 21st century learning atmospheres to adequately prepare students to compete in today's academically rigorous and innovative arenas.

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<sup>1</sup> Haverinen-Shaughnessy, U., Moschandreas, D. J., & Shaughnessy, R. J. *Association Between Substandard Classroom Ventilation Rates and Students' Academic Achievement*. 21 *Indoor Air: International Journal of Indoor Environment and Health* 2, 121-131 (2011), <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-0668.2010.00686.x>; Environmental Protection Agency, "Indoor Air Quality in Schools," <https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools/indoor-air-quality-high-performance-schools#how>.

The structural changes needed to sufficiently address the issues faced by Prince George's County's schools will cost \$8.5 billion.<sup>2</sup> Traditional methods of financing will never come close to alleviating that burden. Hence, the Public Private Partnership language in HB1 for Prince George's County will allow for the partnership to design, finance, build, and maintain newly constructed and renovated schools. The Prince George's County School System will continue to own and control the school buildings.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

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<sup>2</sup> Prince George's County Public Schools Approved FY 2017 Educational Facilities Master Plan.