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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

**SB 275 Education - Community and Local Accountability for Struggling Schools (CLASS) Act of 2020 -
Innovation Schools**

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 4, 2020

Ali Keane, Deputy Legislative Officer, Governor's Legislative Office
Keiffer Mitchell, Chief Legislative Officer, Governor's Legislative Office

Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

The Governor asks for your favorable report on Senate Bill 275 Education - Community and Local Accountability for Struggling Schools (CLASS) Act of 2020 - Innovation Schools. Governor Hogan firmly believes that every student deserves a world class education, regardless of the neighborhood they happen to grow up in. This legislation provides accountability and enables local communities to turn around persistently underperforming schools.

SB 275 designates schools that receive a one star rating for more than two consecutive years to become an Innovation School. Innovation Schools are based off of a model Governor Deval Patrick created in Massachusetts to empower local communities by creating greater autonomy and flexibility.

The local school board will establish a committee to develop an innovation plan, which will cover a wide range of areas, including curriculum, budget, schedule, staffing, and professional development. The committee, which will be comprised of the county superintendent, a local board member, a parent who has one or more children enrolled in the school, a principal employed in the district, and two teachers employed in the district, will hold public hearings.

Innovation Schools will continue to receive full funding while being held accountable for meeting benchmarks in such areas as graduation rates, student performance, and closing achievement gaps. This bill provides necessary flexibility, accountability, and transparency to address issues within a school through a collaborative and community approach.