



ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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SB655 HIGH PERFORMANCE AND GREEN BUILDINGS - COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS - REPEAL OF REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

February 19, 2020

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB655 High Performance and Green Buildings - Community Colleges and Public Schools - Repeal of Requirements and Guidelines**. This bill repeals a requirement that community college capital projects that receive State funds be built as high-performance buildings. It also repeals a requirement that the Maryland Green Building Council develop guidelines for new public school buildings to achieve the equivalent of a silver rating under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program without requiring an independent certification.

AACPS has no position on the provisions in the bill related to community colleges, but AACPS opposes the provisions in the bill that will allow new schools to achieve the equivalent of a high performance or green building status but without the added costs associated with independent external certification. Accordingly, we request that it be stricken from the bill. This elimination will increase the total cost of public school construction for AACPS. Also, it is an unfunded mandate because Anne Arundel County will need to take on 100% of these newly added costs since the State typically declares such independent external certifications as ineligible costs. This provision in the legislation also runs counter to a well-crafted Knott Commission recommendation regarding this very issue. We anticipate a significant fiscal impact. Independent third-party testing could add approximately \$30,000 to the cost of a public school construction project. Since AACPS can undertake 3-5 such projects at any time, this legislation could have a \$90,000 - \$150,000 added costs each year.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB655 with the proposed amendments.