

HB1190_HoCoDelegation_FAV.pdf

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THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
HOWARD COUNTY DELEGATION

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
The Maryland Senate
11 Bladen Street, 2 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

The Howard County House and Senate Delegation has voted in favor of the following bill that will appear before your committee:

HB1190– *Howard County – Board of Education – Redetermination of Geographic Attendance Area Ho. Co. 05-21*

A copy of the Delegation vote sheet in favor of this bill is attached and we request a favorable committee report. Please contact the Howard County Delegation office at 240-459-8956 or hoc1@mlis.state.md.us if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Senator Clarence Lam in black ink.

Senator Clarence Lam
Senate Chair
Howard County Delegation

Handwritten signature of Delegate Jessica Feldmark in blue ink.

Delegate Jessica Feldmark
House Chair
Howard County Delegation

Howard County

Bill/Resolution Number: HB 1190

Delegation

LR Number: 1lr0656

Voting Record – 2021 Session

HoCo Bill Number: HoCo 5-21

Vote Date: 2/3/21

Final Action: Passed

Motion:

Favorable Favorable with Amendment Withdrawn

Name	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Excused
Lam, Clarence, Chair, Sen.	✓			
Feldmark, Jessica, Chair, Del.	✓			
Guzzone, Guy, Sen.	✓			
Hester, Katie Fry, Sen.	✓			
Atterbeary, Vanessa, Del.	✓			
Ebersole, Eric, Del.	✓			
Hill, Terri, Del.	✓			
Kittleman, Trent, Del.		✓		
Novotny, Reid Del.	✓			
Pendergrass, Shane, Del.	✓			
Terrasa, Jen, Del.	✓			
Watson, Courtney, Del.		✓		

Committee Reporter Abbey Rubeling

HB1190 Howard Co BOE Testimony 033021 for EHEA - H

Uploaded by: Howard County, BOE

Position: FWA



**Board of Education of Howard County
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland Senate,
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 30, 2021**

**Board of Education
of Howard County**

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Chair

Jennifer Swickard Mallo
Vice Chair

Vicky Cutroneo

Christina Delmont-Small

Yun Lu, Ph.D.

Jolene Mosley

Antonia Watts

Zachary F. Koung
Student Member

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
*Superintendent
Secretary/Treasurer*

**HB1190: FAVORABLE W/AMENDMENT
Howard County – Board of Education – Redetermination of Geographic
Attendance Area Ho. Co. 05-21**

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) supports **HB1190 Howard County – Board of Education – Redetermination of Geographic Attendance Area Ho. Co. 05-21** with an amendment to clarify the intended action by the Board does not require school redistricting.

On January 24, 2019, the Board voted unanimously to initiate a comprehensive boundary review process seeking to balance capacity utilization through student assignment adjustments at all school levels. The process ended in November 2019, with more than 5,000 students attending a new school during the 2020-2021 school year. In addition to overcrowding, the process aimed to advance equity by addressing the distribution of students affected by poverty across schools, and plan ahead for the impact of a new high school, scheduled to open in fall 2023.

Through the ten-month-long process, parents, students, community members and elected officials in Howard County expressed their supports and concerns alike. The Board appreciates the sponsor's express intent to utilize reporting under the bill to determine how the Howard County Delegation can support the Board's future needs in balancing limited school capacity.

The Board, however, has a concern with the undefined duty within the bill to submit a "plan to adjust student enrollment to meet target utilization," in instances where schools remain outside target utilization, which seems to go beyond an informational report. While we understand that is not the sponsor's intent, plans to adjust student enrollment are typically redistricting plans. To put the stated intent into law, and avoid the cost of potential litigation, we are proposing the following amendment: On page 3, after line 7, insert:

(E) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO REDISTRICIT OR ADOPT A REDISTRICITING PLAN.

Redistricting can be a difficult process where no one solution will satisfy everyone. From this most recent experience, it is also evident that costly, contentious litigation will result from those who do not agree with the decisions of the Board. Our amendment aims to ensure this bill cannot be used to argue that redistricting is required. For these reasons, we urge a FAVORABLE report of HB1190 from this Committee with the inclusion of the suggested amendment.