



**HB630 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION – SCHOOL DISTRICT ENERGY USE – POLICY  
AND STUDY**

February 17, 2021

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

**OPPOSE**

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

---

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB630 Primary and Secondary Education – School District Energy Use – Policy and Study**. This bill requires each school district to adopt or update a school district energy policy beginning July 1, 2022. It specifies the contents of a school district energy policy and encourages school districts to set targets to increase the school district's use of renewable energy and reduce the school district's greenhouse gas emissions. The bill also requires that a school district energy policy be posted on the school district's website and updated every 2 years.

School districts already have comprehensive and professionalized facilities divisions that continuously monitor and deploy best practices and the most up to date codes and standards within the areas of planning, design, construction, maintenance, and school operations. Facilities divisions are sound stewards of public resources and clearly understand that their obligation is to provide for a safe and conducive learning environment while ensuring that the maximum amount of fiscal resources remains available to be allocated to the classroom. Energy procurement decisions and facilities management decisions are driven by the most cost effective and cost beneficial balance at any given moment, often even in real time. As such, any prescriptive energy policy mandate or forced choice that works counter to market forces and real time cost efficiencies is an unfunded mandate that would increase energy costs and artificially reduce the funding levels available for quality classroom instruction, employee compensation enhancements, instructional technology advancement, amongst other things.

Any unfunded mandates that would require facilities management professionals to overspend on energy acquisitions or facilities design, construction, maintenance, and school operations costs would materially detract from the overall level of funding to support both educational advancements and educational equity. While it is difficult to quantify, the fiscal impact of this legislation could be in the millions of capital dollars required annually for the construction and renovations of public schools as well as in the millions of dollars expended annually on energy commodity procurements.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB630.