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County Executive

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BILL NO.: **House Bill 1290**

TITLE: Education - Public School Construction - Funding and Administration

SPONSOR: Delegate McIntosh

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 1, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1290 – Education - Public School Construction - Funding and Administration. This legislation directs funding from enhanced Built to Learn school construction funds to be distributed by the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC).

Since taking office, County Executive Johnny Olszewski Jr. has advocated for and provided historic investments in school construction. These types of investments are immediately needed as the County has the third largest and third oldest school stock in the State of Maryland. Last year, the Maryland General Assembly ensured the passage of the landmark Built to Learn Act, a first-of-its-kind investment in Maryland’s school infrastructure and a historic investment in students across the State.

House Bill 1290 ensures that Built to Learn funding is disseminated in a manner that achieves the many and varied school construction goals held by local jurisdictions throughout the State. This legislation would increase the State’s share of funding for low-income schools, enhance the IAC’s inspection process to include numerous life-saving provisions for student health, and introduce an equitable process for the distribution of additional Built to Learn dollars. With a potential additional provision allowing unused State school construction funding to go directly back into Built to Learn funds, this bill would ensure that Maryland’s schools will once again be a model for educational agencies across the world.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1290. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.