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BILL NO.: **HB 68**

TITLE: Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic
Renovation Projects – Eligibility

SPONSOR: Delegate Watson

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 1, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** HB 68 - Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility. This legislation would include systemic renovations as eligible expenditures which qualify for funds provided by the Built to Learn Act.

Last year, Baltimore County sent a letter to the Interagency Commission on School Construction to express its concerns about the inclusion of systemic renovations as eligible spending. The County, like many other jurisdictions throughout the State, is currently experiencing a backlog of critical projects which would improve the quality of life and education for its students. Projects such as roof replacements, electrical updates, and temperature control system replacements number among the many repairs and improvements that fit within the category of systemic renovations, and would be expedited by enhanced funding provided by the Built to Learn Act.

Our students cannot wait any longer for these critical upgrades. The County’s ambitious construction initiatives and continual funding for schools above maintenance of effort place tremendous strain on the availability of funds for systemic renovations. To continue the incredible progress we are seeing in school infrastructure around Maryland, it is essential that the State allow its once-in-a-lifetime investment encompass all infrastructure priorities of our schools

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 68. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.