

Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



Local Union No. 602

8700 ASHWOOD DRIVE • 2ND FLOOR • CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20743

TELEPHONE: (301) 333-2356 • FAX: (301) 333-1730
AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

Dear Members of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

Please accept this testimony in the strongest possible opposition to HB365.

At the outset, we believe that this bill is a violent assault on the women and men in the union construction trades who, with no help from government, annually spend tens of millions of dollars of their own money, training thousands of young and re-entered apprentices for outstanding middle-class jobs with outstanding health and pension benefits.

Beyond the impact on our jobs and the outstanding training programs that we fund and administer, this bill is an irresponsible departure from the moral spirit and legal precepts of the carefully crafted Built to Learn Act of 2020, a monumental achievement in school construction reform, which addresses vast disparities in school construction across our great State.

By circumventing the capital funding decisions of the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) and this legislature, in order to meet some social and political objective unrelated to the purpose of the Built to Learn Act of 2020, HB365 throws into chaos every foundational principal and formulaic precept of the Built to Learn Act of 2020.

Nowhere in the Built to Learn Act of 2020 has the unilateral banning of existing energy systems and those related jobs been addressed. In fact, the Built to Learn Act of 2020 takes a reasoned and analytical approach to evaluating the economic viability of a range of buildings systems, unlike HB365, which completely eliminates any and all authority or discretion to consider the costs, reliability and overall value. Specifically, HB365 completely eliminates the requirement that the IAC or Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) evaluate life cycle costs of public school facilities over a 50 year period, to include costs and potential efficiencies of alternative energy systems (Geothermal, Wind, and Energy storage), and an energy consumption and systems replacement analysis of each major piece of equipment in specified systems, including cooling systems, heating systems, hot water systems; lighting systems, ventilation systems, and any other major system that uses energy (Ed. Art. §5-325).

In addition, HB365 throws into chaos the complex and delicate matrix of programs and formulas throughout the Built to Learn Act that address: state and local cost shares in order to assist counties with extremely low revenue bases (Ed. Art. §5-303(d)(3)), in which Garrett County's cost share increases from 50 percent to 89 percent; improvements to the Enrollment Growth and Relocatable Classroom Program (Ed. Art. §5-313); the requirement and functional implementation, under the Assessment and Funding Workgroup, regarding the IAC's adoption of regulations on the use of assessments in school construction funding decisions (Ed. Art. §5-310); amendments to the Healthy School Facility Fund (Ed. Art. §5-322), of which 50 percent of all new funding conveys to Baltimore City; the Public School Facilities Priority Fund, which targets capital funding based on need to the highest priority schools, requiring the allocation of \$40m per year through FY26 and \$80m FY 27 and beyond; among others.

Perhaps most dangerously, HB365 jeopardizes the bond ratings integral to the sale of \$2.2 billion in revenue bonds sold by MSA to fund the Built to Learn Act of 2020, and as such, threatens to destabilize the entire funding foundation of the Built to Learn Act of 2020.

We urge the committees to give HB365 an unfavorable report.

Very truly yours,

Christopher M. Madello

Chris Madello

Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer