

SB0040-BT_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Brianna January

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 40

Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: January 19, 2022

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 40. This bill would expand eligibility for systemic school project funding as established by the Built to Learn Act and would offer counties greater flexibility in pursuing a variety of systemic projects.

Currently, systemic school projects, such as updating HVAC units, for example, are only eligible for financing under the Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund if they meet a minimum total cost of \$4 million, a rather arbitrary figure that effectively denies meritorious smaller-scale improvements.

By nature, the current eligibility requirements exclude many important school systemic projects that happen to fall below \$4 million from accessing these funds, and, ultimately, some of these projects have either been delayed or shelved.

SB 40 seeks to sensibly remedy this by eliminating the \$4 million minimum requirement and expanding eligibility to all systemic projects, regardless of size or cost. Not only will this greatly increase counties' flexibility to meet the challenging needs of school revitalization and maintenance of critical systems, as set forth by the Built to Learn Act, but it will also allow them to pursue more of these critical projects by increasing the accessible pool of funding from which they can do so.

Maryland's students deserve to learn in the best and safest school facilities we can provide for them, and systemic upgrades - large and small - deliver on that promise. SB 40 is a reasonable step to do so by giving all systemic projects a fair chance at equal consideration and financing. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 40 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

SB0040_FrederickCoCEGardner_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Jan Gardner

Position: FAV



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

SB 40

Interagency Commission on
School Construction – Systemic
Renovation Projects - Eligibility

County Position: SUPPORT

Date: January 19, 2022
Committee: Budget & Taxation

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges your **SUPPORT** for Senate Bill 40 – Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility.

School facilities should provide an optimal environment for teaching and learning. Adequate and safe school facilities support the State’s commitment to a K-12 public school system that provides excellence, access and opportunity for every Maryland student.

County Executive Gardner supports the provisions in the proposed legislation that:

- Reinforces the strong commitment reflected in the Built to Learn of Act of 2020 to provide safe public school facilities that support students, teachers and staff with environments that are conducive to effective teaching and learning;
- Expands eligible school construction projects funded from the Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund to systemic renovation projects, acknowledging systemic renovations as a valuable and necessary tool in extending the life of publicly funded school facilities and thereby protecting these substantial uses of taxpayer dollars;
- Provides access to much needed funds to allow county governments to meet critical facility needs and maximizes their capacity to improve, upgrade, and renovate existing schools to meet current standards; and
- Provides flexibility to local governments in balancing the need to provide new seats for students with the need to renovate existing facilities.

Frederick County Executive Gardner urges favorable **SUPPORT** for Senate Bill 40.

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0040.pdf

Uploaded by: Joel Beller

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JOEL N. BELLER
Acting Director of Government Affairs

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG
Associate Director of Government Affairs

MIA R. GOGEL
Associate Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **SB 40**

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

SPONSOR: Senator Hester

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 19, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** SB 40 - 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 SB 40. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.

SB 40.Systemic Project Eligibility Regardless of C

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: FAV

BILL: Senate Bill 40
TITLE: Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility
DATE: January 19, 2022
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports Senate Bill 40, which would clarify that systemic projects submitted for State funding approval are eligible for consideration and approval for funding under the Built to Learn Act and regardless of cost.

MABE's top priorities for the 2022 legislative session relating to school facilities, include:

- ✓ Support for a state funding level of at least \$400 million for school construction and renovation projects for FY 2023 to provide the State's share of approved projects to build, renovate, and improve schools;
- ✓ Support for continued funding and implementation of the Built to Learn Act and its \$2 billion school construction program financed through the Maryland Stadium Authority; and
- ✓ Support for continued funding of projects to improve the health and safety of school facilities.

MABE supports Senate Bill 40 because it is aligned with the equitable goal of ensuring that both the traditional Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the new Built to Learn Act program administered by the Maryland Stadium Authority are available to local school systems as robust funding sources for new school construction, major renovations, and the typically much smaller systemic projects. Systemic projects include repair or replacement of structures such as roofs, walls, floors, and ceilings; and plumbing and mechanical systems such as heating, ventilation, air conditioning, water supply, electrical, sprinklers and fire detection, and elevators.

Local boards appreciate the State's investments in the annual capital budget and targeted investments to support school safety projects, HVAC and lead remediation projects, energy efficiency projects, and designated funding for school systems with significant enrollment growth. In addition, the State has fulfilled the commitment to fund 21st Century school facilities in the Baltimore City Public School System, including net-zero schools. These initiatives demonstrate the State's commitment to investing in high quality school facilities and learning environments for all students. The Built to Learn Act targets the bulk of its revenue stream to the largest 7 school systems in the State, but a substantial amount is also available to the other 17 school systems. MABE is confident that all 24 school systems would benefit from the passage of Senate Bill 40.

In this context, MABE firmly believes that all sources of school facilities funding should be increased and administered in support of locally prioritized construction, renovation, and systemic projects in each of Maryland's 24 local school systems.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 40.

SB40 – Favorable testimony.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Katie Fry Hester

Position: FAV

KATIE FRY HESTER
Legislative District 9
Carroll and Howard Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair, Joint Committee on
Cybersecurity, Information Technology
and Biotechnology



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB40 - Interagency Commission on School Construction

January 19th, 2021

Chairman Kelley, Vice-Chair Feldman, and members of the Finance Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 40, which will require the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) to consider systemic renovations regardless of cost. As it currently stands, the IAC only considers systemic renovation efforts if the projects are valued above \$4M. Due to this requirement, many high-impact, low-cost projects are disqualified.

When we passed the Build to Learn Act of 2020, many of us anticipated funds from revenue bonds being used equally to cover the costs of new construction as well as renovation. Deferred maintenance in our public schools is just as common in Garrett County as it is in Howard County or on the Eastern Shore, so this funding is critical to keeping our students in safe, healthy learning environments. However, last year I spoke to the Howard County Executive and he brought to my attention the fact that several projects in Howard County – including boiler replacements and roofing at several of our elementary schools – fall below this \$4M figure. When I spoke with the Baltimore County Executive, who has submitted his favorable testimony on this bill, he confirmed that many of their projects would be disqualified under the IAC's current interpretation. As such, my legislation would merely clarify this original intent.

Most of these necessary projects that would lose funding by the IAC's new consideration would disproportionately impact the most vulnerable students in our communities. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 40.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katie Fry Hester'.

Senator Katie Fry Hester
Carroll and Howard Counties

MBIA Letter of Support SB 40.pdf

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: FAV

January 19th, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building,
3 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Support SB 40 Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 40 Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility**. **MBIA Supports** the Act in its current version.

This bill would expand eligibility for systemic renovation projects to receive funding from the Supplemental Public-School Construction Financing Fund and the Supplemental Public-School Construction Facilities Fund. MBIA respectfully supports this measure. One of the major public concerns across the State of Maryland is the adequacy of school facilities to meet the demands of an increasing student population. Allowing the state to help finance more projects to improve the capacity of schools to meet student needs will help to maintain the high standards of education in the state of Maryland as the population grows and the demographics change over time. Additionally, renovation projects to expand school capacity take less time and show a faster benefit than new school construction which is time consuming and requires a large up-front cost. MBIA supports the use of efficient state funding to meet Maryland's education needs.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

SB40 Systemic Renovations IAC 1.19.22.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeanette Ortiz

Position: FWA



SB40 INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION – SYSTEMIC RENOVATION PROJECTS – ELIGIBILITY

January 19, 2022

BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

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

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports with amendments **SB40 Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation Projects – Eligibility**. This legislation includes systemic projects to the eligibility list of project types/categories that may be funded by the State’s Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the State’s Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund, regardless of the cost of the project.

AACPS endeavors to provide students with high-performing school facilities conducive to learning. AACPS strongly supports adequate funding and the development of adequate and equitable State and federal programs to assist localities with public school construction, renovation, and major maintenance projects.

Systemic projects are typically component level replacements with in-kind features such as a roof, boiler, and chiller. These projects differ from a comprehensive building-wide renovation, school replacement, school addition, or new school construction projects that are currently eligible for funding from the State’s Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the State’s Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund.

This legislation would provide local school systems with added flexibility in terms of the types or mix of projects that can be submitted for State funding consideration from the specified State funds. While we support the inclusion of systemic projects, we recommend that the legislation be amended to strike the “**REGARDLESS OF THE COST OF THE PROJECT**” language. We recommend this amendment to ensure alignment with the Administrative Procedures Guide published by the Interagency Commission on School Construction which governs the public school construction program. The Administrative Procedures Guide establishes a minimum \$100,000 project cost threshold for systemic projects that are funded via traditional IAC general obligation bond funding. In order to remain consistent, and to reduce the burden of administering small projects that can be handled via local pay-go funding, the same fiscal threshold should be imposed on projects funded by the State’s Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the State’s Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on SB40.