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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

BILL: Senate Bill 575
Public Schools – Mold Assessment and Remediation

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

DATE: February 24, 2022

POSITION: Letter of Information

Upon review of Senate Bill 575 Public Schools – Mold Assessment and Remediation, the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS), provides these comments for your consideration.

This bill requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to consult with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), and the Department of General Services (DGS) on the adoption of regulations for mold assessment and remediation. These regulations include standards for identifying mold, remediation of mold, and abatement of the underlying cause of mold. The legislation also would require each County to establish the reporting process for potential mold in a public school, to post mold assessment results on its website, and to submit the results to MSDE.

DGS works with consultants and contractors to supplement internal expertise in matters related to mold. In consulting with MSDE and MDH, **DGS would need to hire consultants to assist with the review and development of these regulations.** This would be a coordinated effort between the agencies previously listed. **DGS estimates that \$125,000 would be required for expert assistance** for the creation and review of the regulations pertaining to mold identification, dampness, remediation standards, and risk reduction standards. There will be additional needs associated with County inspections, remediation efforts, and abatement of underlying causes of mold that are not included in DGS's estimated expenses for consultant services.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at 410-260-2908.

