



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 458 (SB 360)
Delegates J. Lewis,
B. Barnes, and Smith

Public School Construction – Grant Programs,
Approvals, and Administration – Alterations

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 458 (SB 360) – Public School Construction – Grant Programs, Approvals, and Administration – Alterations – For the purpose of establishing the Interagency Commission on School Construction as an independent unit of State government; providing a removal process for members of the Interagency Commission on School Construction; repealing the School Safety Grant Program and the Aging Schools Program by Fiscal Year 2027; altering provisions relating to school construction approvals by the State Superintendent of Schools; repealing the requirement for the Board of Public Works to approve grants awarded under the Capital Grant Program for Local School Systems With Significant Enrollment Growth or Relocatable Classrooms; and requiring the Department of General Services to develop life cycle cost analysis standards in coordination with the Interagency Commission on School Construction and the State Department of Education.

This bill primarily makes the Interagency Commission on School Construction an independent unit of State government, which would enable them to handle their own HR, IT, and financing without having to go through the Department of Education. There are other features of this bill including permitting the appointing authority to remove an appointed member for incompetence, misconduct, or failure and raising the monetary thresholds for construction actions that the State Superintendent must approve.

The Prince George's County Council supports HB 458 and SB 360 as an effort to streamline the Interagency Commission on School Construction to ensure it runs as efficiently as possible. The construction, maintenance, and modification of our public schools is critical. As the first county in Maryland to create a Public Private Partnership for school construction, we know that innovative approaches are essential to enhancing the school system that our children deserve.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council SUPPORTS HB 458 and SB 360 and respectfully requests the Committee's favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Evans & Associates
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

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