

JAZZ LEWIS  
*Legislative District 24*  
Prince George's County

MAJORITY WHIP

Appropriations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 151  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3691 · 301-858-3691  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3691  
Fax 410-841-3055 · 301-858-3055  
Jazz.Lewis@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Oral Testimony of Jazz Lewis**  
**HB458– Public School Construction – Grant Programs, Approvals, and**  
**Administration – Alterations**  
**Before the Appropriations Committee**

Chair Barnes and Vice-Chair Chang and members of the Appropriation Committee,

I am thrilled to present House Bill 458 to our committee. This bill is one that will help streamline our state's Interagency Commission on School Construction and make it an independent unit of our state's government. The bill also has a number of more technical components to it that will aid the Commission's work.

To start, this bill will bring the Interagency Commission on School Construction out of the Department of Education and will make it an independent unit of state government. This reflects the intent of the Built to Learn Act but wasn't included in statute. This move will help us streamline the Commission's work.

In regards to the more technical changes that are made in this bill, we include allowing for the removal of Commission members which was never placed into statute. We also allow for the Superintendent's designee to sign approvals for a number of items related to the Commission's work which is not explicitly allowed as of now. HB458 also updates some of the prices at which plans or change orders need approval to reflect recent inflation that we have seen nationwide. We also remove an outdated reference to the Board of Public Works in the grant awards process for the Commission. Also, HB458 will incorporate the Department of General Services into the developing life cycle cost analysis standards alongside the Commission. And finally, with this bill we repeal the Aging Schools and School Safety Grant Program as was intended in the Built to Learn Act.

With these technical changes and moving the Commission out from the umbrella of the Department of Education we will create a more streamlined process and a more effective Commission in the long-term.

**For these reasons, I urge a favorable report.**