



The Voice of Merit Construction

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TO: BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS
RE: S.B. 843 – SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION – LOCAL COST-SHARE - ALTERATIONS
POSITION: FAVORABLE

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland support S.B. 843 which is before you today for consideration. This legislation proposes important adjustments to the local cost-share formula for school construction projects in Maryland.

S.B. 843 creates a new adjustment to the local and State cost share of school construction projects that meet specified criteria. To be eligible for the adjustment:

- 1) the percentage of students in the county eligible for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM) must be greater than the statewide average;
- 2) all schools in the county must participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Community Eligibility Provision (CEP);
- 3) the State and local cost share must be 50% State and 50% local; and
- 4) the eligible project must be a school that is the only elementary, middle, or high school in the county. Counties with eligible projects must have the local cost share for that project reduced to equal the average cost share of counties in which all schools participate in CEP.

ABC supports public policy that will invest in educational infrastructure critical to Maryland communities. The Local Cost-Share model equitably shares the financial responsibility between local and state entities and ensures the development of high-quality educational facilities – especially in rural counties. This legislation will not only benefit the construction industry but will also significantly contribute to the well-being and future educational success of our communities.

ABC appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on S.B. 843.

Marcus Jackson, Director of
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