



IAC Informational Testimony on HB 337/SB 0031 – School Construction and Housing – School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances

Introduction

- The IAC is here to provide technical information regarding the impact of this bill. It is the IAC's technical opinion that the requirements in this bill would have minor operational impacts, and would have a limited fiscal impact on the State.

Utility of the Data to the State

- The school-attendance-area data required to be submitted under this bill would permit multiple State agencies, including the Dept. of Planning, the Dept. of Housing and Community Dev't, the Governor's Office for Children, and the IAC to execute a number of their responsibilities surrounding funding and support for children, families, education, and housing with greater accuracy than they currently can absent this important and frequently changing data.
- For the IAC specifically, the data will assist in calculating the funding eligibility of nearly every major project that LEAs bring to the IAC for construction funding.

LEA Operational Impact

- The bill does not require LEAs to generate or maintain any data that they do not already generate or maintain. It requires that each LEA annually provide to the State the data that describe its school-attendance areas as of that time. Because almost all LEAs maintain this data electronically, submitting the data should require little to no additional workload.
- The bill additionally requires LEAs to report locations of student residences and school zone boundaries to the IAC. LEAs also maintain this data electronically and it is exportable without significant effort.
- Protection of PII prevents the IAC from receiving exact student resident location information, so this information would likely have to be redacted in some way, or provided in such a way that PII is protected, while maintaining data-usability for determination of school zones. My understanding is that the LEAs already submit the student residence location data to MSDE at the census-block level, and the IAC would be comfortable receiving the same data from the LEAs to comply with this legislation.
- The IAC expects to develop a standardized format to minimize difficulty for the LEAs, and is ready to collaborate with LEAs on how to best do this.

IAC Operational Impact

- IAC staff will be required to draft standards for data submissions, outlining the requirements that LEAs must adhere to when submitting school zone, attendance area, and student residence data.
- Due to the limited scope of these requirements, we estimate that existing staff can absorb the creation of these standards.



- We additionally anticipate that data provided by LEAs will require quality control, compilation, and analysis work to provide useful information on school zone and residency analysis, work which can also be absorbed by existing IAC staff.

Conclusion

- The IAC appreciates the opportunity to provide technical information regarding this bill, and stand for any questions the committee may have about its impact.