



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***Senate Bill 381
Education - School Building Energy Usage - Monthly Report***

Position: Support
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Date: February 27, 2026
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 381.

Bill Summary

Senate Bill 381 would require each Maryland County Board of Education to collect and report data on school building energy usage to the Interagency Commission on School Construction (the Commission). The Commission would be responsible for adopting regulations specifying the data collection requirements, means, and frequency of reporting. Furthermore, the Commission would be required to analyze the collected data and provide recommendations to the County Board for enhancing school building energy efficiency and usage.

Position Rationale

Senate Bill 381 aligns with MDE's existing efforts through the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) program, which currently requires annual energy benchmarking reports from larger buildings in the State. As all public and private K-12 school buildings are exempt from BEPS, this legislation would enable the Commission to acquire data on the energy efficiency of schools and subsequently assist County Boards with recommendations for improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving student comfort and learning, lowering long-term energy costs, and reducing energy demands on the grid.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 381.

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