

SB0031_DHCD_SUPPORT.pdf

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Position: FAV



WES MOORE
Governor
ARUNA MILLER
Lt. Governor
JACOB R. DAY
Secretary
JULIA GLANZ
Deputy Secretary

DATE: February 17, 2026

BILL NO.: Senate Bill 31

TITLE: School Construction and Housing – School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Letter of Information

Description of Bill:

Senate Bill 31 requires county boards of education to submit reports on student residency and school zones to the Department of Planning and Interagency Commission on School Construction by July 1 of each year, and prohibits a county’s APFO from delaying the processing and completion of subdivision or site development plans but not the final issuance of permits themselves.

Background and Analysis:

Local jurisdictions across Maryland frequently cite concerns about the capacity of schools and infrastructure such as roads, sewers, etc. to limit new housing development. While new infrastructure funding is a critical need for many communities, local adequate public facilities ordinances (APFOs) are currently used as a tool in Maryland to legally prohibit the construction of new housing, without providing a mechanism to address the underlying infrastructure need. The result is often less housing available to Maryland families, and a smaller tax base for jurisdictions.

Maryland faces a severe housing crisis, with a shortage of at least 96,000 residential units and rising. As a result of this shortage, housing costs are unaffordable to many of the state’s working families – many of which have school-aged children. To address this crisis, action is needed to reduce or mitigate barriers to housing construction. Establishing a four-year “sunset” provision for these ordinances will encourage local jurisdictions to address infrastructure needs rather than use blanket policies to limit housing development while neglecting the infrastructure that could support it.

Requiring boards of education to submit detailed student residency reports to the Interagency Commission on School construction will assist the IAC in allocating funding for school construction and renovation, which, in turn, will boost school capacity in areas where it is needed to support more housing. In summary, this bill helps address concerns about school funding and capacity while also limiting the use of APFOs to prevent housing development without addressing the underlying inadequate school or infrastructure capacity.

DHCD Position

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 31.



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Uploaded by: Jake Day

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DHCD Position

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 31.



SB 31- APFO - FAV - REALTORS.pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa May

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 31 – School Construction and Housing – School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® supports SB 31, which will bring needed clarity, consistency, and balance to the application of local Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances (APFOs) tied to school capacity. At a time when Maryland faces a significant housing supply deficit, this legislation ensures that well-intentioned local growth management tools do not unnecessarily delay housing production.

SB 31 appropriately distinguishes between development planning and final permitting. By allowing subdivision and site development plans to proceed during a school capacity lockout period—while preserving a county’s authority to delay final permits—the bill restores predictability to the development process without undermining local oversight. This approach recognizes that years-long planning delays do nothing to add school capacity and instead compound housing shortages and costs.

Local APFO policies have contributed to today’s housing shortfall by interrupting the very funding mechanisms needed to address infrastructure needs. When projects are placed on hold due to school capacity constraints, local governments forgo impact fees, transfer and recordation taxes, and future property tax revenue that support school construction and expansion. Prolonged APFO pauses also distort housing outcomes. After a lockout is lifted, it can take two to three additional years for projects to move through permitting, financing, and construction. Faced with this uncertainty, developers and lenders are less likely to pursue moderately priced housing and more likely to focus on higher-margin projects that can absorb risk.

Finally, SB 31 promotes transparency and accountability by requiring county boards of education to submit student residency and school zone reports to the Department of Planning and the Interagency Commission on School Construction. School capacity calculations and student yield assumptions vary widely across jurisdictions and can be applied inconsistently. State-level reporting and review will help ensure that capacity determinations are data-driven, standardized, and used as intended—not as a tool to delay housing.

This bill does not eliminate APFOs or disregard school capacity concerns. Instead, it ensures that planning continues, infrastructure funding is not stalled, and housing production can proceed in a responsible and coordinated manner. For these reasons, Maryland REALTORS® urge a favorable report on SB 31.

For more information contact
lisa.may@mdrealtor.org or christa.mcgee@mdrealtor.org

MBIA Letter of Support SB 31.pdf

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: FAV

February 13th, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman

Chair, Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

2 West Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: MBIA Letter of Support SB 31 School Construction and Housing – School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances

Dear Chair Feldman,

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 31 School Construction and Housing – School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances**.

This bill requires each county board of education to submit a student residence and school zones report to the State Department of Planning and Interagency Commission on School Construction. These reports include school zone boundaries, an attendance area map, locations where students reside, and the state-rated capacity, student population, and capacity percentage of each school in the county. It also prevents a county from delaying the processing or completion of subdivision or site development plans based on an adequate public facilities ordinance (APFO) that restricts housing development due to school capacity. Preventing local jurisdictions from blocking housing development through APFO removes one of the most significant regulatory hurdles to building more housing. Adequate public facilities ordinances were adopted by counties across the State to manage growth, not to completely stop housing development altogether. We have seen a recent uptick in counties using their APFO to put a stop to certain projects. For more information on APFO in Maryland, the Maryland Department of Planning recently completed a report on the issue ([APFO's in Maryland](#)).

Howard County currently has a 4-year waiting period if you fail the APFO test. Under current law, you cannot file final project plans until you either pass the APFO test or until after the 4-year waiting period if you fail. Prior to taking the APFO test, a developer must complete a preliminary equivalent sketch plan, which is a 12–18-month process. Completing the final plans of a project is another 12–18-month process. Essentially this means that projects in APFO restricted areas will take 6-8 years to get started. Adding language to allow final plans to move forward even if you fail the APFO test will allow projects in APFO restricted areas to allow projects to move more efficiently through the process and will shorten the timeframe for the entitlement process.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration. For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

SB 31 - 2026 APFOs (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Mark Clements

Position: FAV



The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 13, 2026

Senate Bill 31 – School Construction and Housing – School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances – Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Clements and I serve as the Maryland Policy Manager for [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance sustainability and equity in housing, land use, and transportation throughout Greater Washington and beyond. **GGWash strongly supports Senate Bill 31**, which will help us make best use of limited school construction funding while supporting housing production.

It cannot be said enough times: Maryland has a housing shortage—as many as 150,000 homes¹, which has resulted in rising home prices², forced families to move far from jobs and loved ones, and has caused many of people to leave the state entirely³. There are many causes for this, but a big one are Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances and housing moratoria, or blocking housing approvals in areas where the schools are full.

Counties have noble intentions for doing this, namely making sure that school capacity keeps pace with new development, but APFOs and moratoria don't build schools. They do, however, ensure that people have fewer choices for where to live, whether or not they have children.

This bill does two things: First, it limits how long counties can enact a housing moratorium based solely on school capacity. Second, it directs school systems to collect and share information with the Interagency Commission on School Construction—the statewide hub for school construction funding and best practices on school facility operations and management—about where its students come from and how it draws school boundaries.

¹ <https://www.wbalv.com/article/maryland-legislators-new-bills-keep-up-housing-demand/63423726>

² <https://www.wmar2news.com/matterformallory/the-state-of-marylands-housing-market-whats-driving-up-home-prices-and-impacting-sales>

³ <https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/community/local-news/moving-out-of-maryland-census-data-76ZWGRSMXNCKTGR62I4FONWZBA/>

The Washington, DC region is great  and it can be greater.



In recent years, school systems in Anne Arundel⁴, Howard⁵, and Montgomery⁶ counties have found that most student enrollment comes from turnover in existing homes, not new construction. Creating a state clearinghouse for data like this allows the state to partner with local jurisdictions, determining where our limited school construction funds are best used and ensuring that those jurisdictions also permit the homes that we need.

Between Maryland's budget shortfall, our housing shortage, and our ongoing need for school construction funding, we are in need of creative solutions, and this is one of them. **We ask the Committee to give this bill a favorable report.**

With candor and respect,



Mark A. Clements, Jr.
Maryland Policy Manager
Greater Greater Washington

⁴ <https://www.aacounty.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/apf-schools-work-group-report-2023.pdf>

⁵ [https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/D4FFNH3FEF05/\\$file/04%2025%2024-Enrollment%20Projection%20Report.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/D4FFNH3FEF05/$file/04%2025%2024-Enrollment%20Projection%20Report.pdf)

⁶ <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/countywide/growth-and-infrastructure-policy/schools/student-generation-rates/>

Testimony in support of SB0031 - School Constructi

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

02/17/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0031- POSITION: FAVORABLE

School Construction and Housing – School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0031, **School Construction and Housing – School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances**

This bill has two purposes. The first is to require collection of data to assist in making decisions on school construction and boundaries of attendance for schools in a county. The second purpose is governance of land use tied to that documented need for school construction while reserving a counties ability to determine issuance of final permits on subdivision or site development plans.

These goals are met in this bill by rRequiring each county board of education to submit a student residency and school zones report to the Department of Planning and the Interagency Commission on School Construction on or before July 1 each year, beginning on July 1, 2026; prohibiting certain adequate public facilities ordinances from delaying the processing and completion of subdivision or site development plans; and authorizing certain adequate public facilities ordinances to delay the issuance of final permits.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0031.

SB0031 Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: sharlimar douglass

Position: FAV



SB31 School Construction and Housing – School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances

Position: Favorable

February 17, 2025

The Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education (MAREE), a coalition of education advocacy, civil rights, and community-based organizations committed to eliminating racial disparities in Maryland's education system, **offers favorable testimony in support of Senate Bill 31**, legislation that will improve educational planning, promote data-driven decision-making, and ensure that all Maryland children have access to quality schools while supporting the development of affordable housing in our communities.

Currently, Maryland lacks a comprehensive system for tracking school capacity and student residency patterns across our state. This data gap has real consequences: school construction funds may not reach the schools that need them most, while some jurisdictions use concerns about school overcrowding to restrict housing development—even when the data doesn't support such restrictions.

The impetus for this bill came from Baltimore County, where local officials proposed tightening housing development regulations by lowering the school overcrowding threshold from 115% to 105% capacity and requiring developers to ensure school capacity before building. While addressing overcrowding is a legitimate concern, such policies often rest on incomplete information and can have unintended consequences that harm both students and families seeking housing.

SB31 takes a smart, measured approach by:

1. **Requiring Annual Transparency Reports** - Each County Board of Education must submit a Student Residency and School Zones Report to the Department of Planning and the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC). These reports will include school zone boundaries, attendance area maps, and student residence locations (using census tract and block numbers to protect student privacy).
2. **Preventing Prolonged Development Delays** - While Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances (APFOs) can still delay the issuance of final permits based on school capacity concerns, they can no longer delay the processing of development plans. This prevents unnecessary bureaucratic bottlenecks while maintaining oversight.
3. **Protecting Student Privacy** - The amended version wisely removes requirements for data the IAC already possesses and converts student residence data to census tract and block numbers, ensuring no personally identifiable information is shared.

As someone committed to racial equity in education, I see this bill as essential for several reasons:

First, it promotes equitable resource allocation. Many Maryland school districts have schools operating at 60-70% capacity while others struggle with overcrowding. Without comprehensive data, the IAC cannot effectively prioritize funding for schools that genuinely need expansion. This often means that schools serving low-income communities and communities of color—which may have the greatest need—don't receive the resources they deserve. Better data collection ensures funding goes where it's truly needed.

Second, it challenges housing restrictions that perpetuate segregation. Research consistently shows that new housing development does not lead to school overcrowding. Most new students come from turnover in existing housing, not new developments. When jurisdictions use school capacity as a pretext to restrict housing development, they often block affordable housing that would allow families of color and working-class families to move into opportunity-rich neighborhoods with strong schools. This perpetuates residential segregation and denies children access to high-quality educational environments.

Third, it supports data-driven, culturally responsive planning. Effective educational planning requires understanding where students live and how they access schools. The census tract and block data required by this bill will help educators and planners identify transportation challenges, attendance boundaries that may separate students from their communities, and opportunities to better serve families. This is particularly important for Multi Lingual Learners, students with disabilities, and other populations that need culturally responsive educational services.

National research on school enrollment and housing development is clear: new housing does not cause school overcrowding. Students move throughout the year, families relocate within and between districts, and enrollment is driven far more by demographic trends and housing turnover than by new construction. By basing policy on evidence rather than assumptions, SB 31 positions Maryland to make smarter decisions about both education and housing.

Every Maryland child deserves access to a high-quality education in a school that isn't overcrowded. Every Maryland family deserves the opportunity to find safe, affordable housing near good schools. These goals are not in conflict—but achieving them requires good data and smart policy. Senate Bill 31 provides both. It ensures the Interagency Commission on School Construction has the information needed to direct resources where they are most needed. It promotes transparency about school utilization so taxpayers can see how efficiently their investments are being used. And it prevents housing restrictions based on unfounded fears rather than solid evidence.

As Maryland faces both a housing affordability crisis and ongoing challenges in educational equity, we cannot afford to make policy based on incomplete information or allow school capacity concerns to become a barrier to opportunity. Senate Bill 31 represents a common-sense approach that serves students, families, and communities. I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 31.

peace & truth,
sharlimar douglass
Education Justice Advocate & Analyst
Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education (MAREE)

SB31.HC HAC.FAVw_amd.pdf

Uploaded by: Jessamine Duvall

Position: FWA



Senate Finance Committee
SB 31 School Construction and Housing –
School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances
February 17, 2026

The Howard County Housing Affordability Coalition represents housing advocates, community organizations, service providers and residents who are united by a shared goal: ensuring that every person in our County has access to safe, stable and affordable housing.

The Coalition is appreciative of Senator Lam's intent to ensure in Senate Bill 31 that a County's Adequate Public Facility Ordinance (APFO) is not used to unduly delay housing construction projects. Our Coalition supports **Senate Bill 31** but does request an amendment.

We strongly agree that APFO tests must be administered at the time of approval of the initial development plan submission and specifically should not delay the processing and completion of subdivision or site development plans. Applying APFO requirements at this early stage ensures clarity and consistency allowing developers, local governments and communities to plan and move forward with elements of the development process during the "school bin" waiting period.

Authorizing APFO to delay the issuance of final—we assume building—permits, however, would introduce significant uncertainty into the development process resulting in the unintended consequence of creating a disincentive to housing development. Linking building permits to a backend APFO test would likely result in fewer housing projects being initiated.

For example, with the potential for a change in an earlier APFO clearance decision, there would be no secure path to the "entitlements" (such as housing unit allocations awarded, passed roads test, passed both school tests, plat recorded in land records) required by lenders before funding a loan. Such a disincentive seems to counter CB 31's intent and certainly counters state and local goals of increasing housing, including affordable housing, inventory. To avoid introducing this unintended consequence into the housing development process, the Coalition respectfully requests that CB 31 be amended by eliminating the second 7-106 bullet "May delay the issuance of final permits."

With such an amendment, the Housing Affordability Coalition requests a FAVORABLE committee report.

Respectfully,

Jackie Eng

Jackie Eng, Coalition Coordinator

SB31_City of Gaithersburg_SWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Therese Hessler

Position: FWA



February 13, 2026

Senate Education, Energy & Environment Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 31 – School Construction and Housing – School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances

Position: Support with Amendments

Dear Members of the Senate Education, Energy & Environment Committee,

The City of Gaithersburg supports efforts to align housing production with infrastructure planning; however, the City has significant concerns that SB 31, as drafted, undermines the core purpose of APFOs and weakens local authority to responsibly manage growth in areas where schools are already over capacity or subject to moratoria.

APFOs are a critical tool in the entitlement process to ensure that schools, roads, and other public facilities can adequately serve new development. Approving site plans in areas where schools are already over capacity—and where no mitigation is planned—undermines both the intent of APFO law and the City’s ability to protect public welfare.

The City’s key concerns and requested amendments are as follows:

1. APFO Authority and School Capacity

Under current practice, APFOs ensure that development approvals are aligned with available school capacity. SB 31’s prohibition on delaying the processing and completion of subdivision or site development plans in areas with overcrowded schools weakens this safeguard.

Approving site plans while schools remain under moratorium without guaranteed capacity improvements effectively nullifies APFO protections and shifts growth impacts onto already strained school systems.

While the bill allows jurisdictions to delay final permit issuance, meaningful growth management occurs earlier in the entitlement process. Once site plans are approved, jurisdictions face substantial pressure to issue permits regardless of capacity conditions.

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2038
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MAYOR
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Lisa Henderson
Yamil Hernández
Jim McNulty
Robert Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley

The City's preferred amendment is to strike the following language entirely:
"may not delay the processing and completion of subdivision or site development plans."

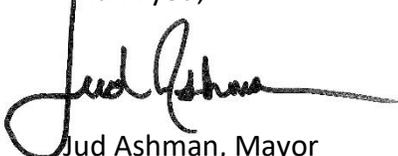
Removing this provision preserves local authority to manage growth responsibly while still allowing development to proceed when adequate facilities exist.

The City of Gaithersburg supports the goals of Senate Bill 31 but urges the Committee to adopt the amendment which preserves the essential role of APFOs in managing growth and protecting school capacity.

Without this amendment, the bill risks accelerating development in areas where schools are already over capacity and no mitigation is planned undermining both local planning authority and public confidence in growth management.

The City respectfully requests a favorable report with amendments.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jud Ashman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

SB0031-EEE_MACo_OPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Sanderson

Position: UNF



Senate Bill 31

School Construction and Housing - School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Education, Energy, & the Environment
Committee

Date: February 17, 2026

From: Dominic J. Butchko & Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 31. This bill would require counties to partially process development applications even when they do not meet local Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) standards—diverting limited staff time, delaying projects that are ready for approval, and wasting public resources.

As drafted, SB 31 does not reflect the realities of APFO implementation and overlooks that counties have little to no authority over school capacity planning and redistricting decisions. APFOs are a long-standing local “smart growth” tool used to manage development when infrastructure—most often schools, but also water, sewer, roads, and other public facilities—cannot keep pace with demand. While counties can influence some infrastructure investments, classroom capacity and redistricting are decisions made by local boards of education and school system leadership. Beyond providing required funding, counties (by State policy design) do not direct school boundary decisions or student assignment policies. As a result, SB 31 would override county growth management policies based on school system decisions that counties cannot control.

Counties are concerned the bill would also overwhelm local planning offices by forcing staff to spend time partially advancing projects that cannot proceed, instead of prioritizing applications that are positioned for timely approval. This approach creates delays across the board and effectively penalizes both jurisdictions and other developers for decisions outside their influence. **It is important to note that SB 31 as drafted could actually create new obstacles in approving housing stock, rather than accelerating it - an unintended consequence that both the State and counties would like to avoid.**

Counties remain committed to partnering on solutions to the affordable housing crisis. However, SB 31 misaligns authority and accountability in a way that undermines effective local planning. For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** report on SB 31.

SB31_HB337 Local Rated Capacity for Schools is nee

Uploaded by: Ryan Powers

Position: UNF

Dear Committee,

Please vote no for SB31/HB337.

1) State rated capacity differs from local capacity and this should be considered instead. In Howard County, using the state rated capacity for our schools would in most cases **result in dozens of more students (in some cases 100+) placed into schools that aren't able to handle them.**

2) This bill is redundant. The Office of School Planning already has all this information. Doing the same work twice is a poor way to spend taxpayer money

3) APFO are locally strong regulations and should stay that way. Development plans are a continuous back and forth between the developer, the county's Department of Planning and Zoning, and local zoning laws and needs. In Howard County especially, we just reviewed our APFO and it should be up to the local County Council to develop laws based on local citizen feedback, not the State.

Thank you,

Ryan Powers, Howard County

Testimony SB31.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Shawn McIntosh

Position: UNF

To: Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

From: Shawn McIntosh
1232 Sparks Road
Sparks, MD 21152
smhasler14@gmail.com

Testimony in Opposition to Maryland Senate Bill 31
Shawn McIntosh

Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 31.

My name is Shawn McIntosh. I previously served as Chair of LOCAL Maryland, a statewide coalition formed specifically to prevent state-level preemption of local authority. In that role, I worked alongside county leaders and community advocates across Maryland who understood a simple truth: decisions are most effective when they are made closest to the people they impact.

Senate Bill 31 would preempt local Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances, or APFOs. That is deeply concerning.

APFOs are one of the most important tools counties have to ensure that development keeps pace with infrastructure. When used appropriately, APFOs allow local governments to analyze real data such as school capacity, road congestion, public safety response times, water and sewer capacity to determine whether a proposed development can be supported without creating unintended negative consequences for existing residents.

This is not about stopping development. It is about sequencing development responsibly.

Maryland is not a one-size-fits-all state. Conditions in Baltimore County are different from those in Montgomery County, Worcester County, or Washington County. Local planners and elected officials rely on localized data to make informed decisions that balance growth with infrastructure, environmental protection, and quality of life.

State-level preemption of APFO authority ties the hands of local decision makers. It removes the ability to respond to unique community conditions. It undermines smart growth principles that Maryland has long championed. And it risks accelerating development in ways that strain schools, overwhelm roads, and shift costs onto taxpayers.

When infrastructure lags behind growth, it is families who pay the price in overcrowded classrooms, longer emergency response times, traffic congestion, and diminished public trust in government planning.

APFOs, when structured responsibly, create predictability for developers and protection for communities. They provide clear standards. They ensure that growth can occur without sacrificing the health, safety, and well-being of existing residents.

Preemption is a blunt instrument. Good planning requires precision.

If the state believes reforms are needed, that conversation should happen collaboratively with counties, not through broad preemption that strips local governments of essential planning tools.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 31.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB 31 Letter of Information_Informational Testimon

Uploaded by: Alex Donahue

Position: INFO



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.