



## **HB153 BUILDING OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2019**

February 28, 2019

APPRPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

### **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports **HB153 Building Opportunity Act of 2019**. This bill authorizes the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) to issue up to \$1.8 billion in revenue bonds, backed by annual payments of \$125 million from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) beginning in fiscal 2021, to be used for public school construction projects in the State. MSA's sale of bonds under the bill is subject to the approval of the Board of Public Works (BPW), and the bill establishes mechanisms and procedures for MSA and the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) to manage the program.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports Adequate funding for the Public School Construction Program. This bill would provide supplemental Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding to help address the \$2.1 billion infrastructure backlog at AACPS. However, this legislation could potentially allow for the funding of charter school projects. As such, we recommend that the proposed legislation be amended to remove any provision that would allow for a portion of revenue bonds to support construction or renovation activities at charter schools. Secondly, in order to ensure that the new Building Opportunity Fund is implemented as efficiently and effectively as possible, it should be done so implemented within the existing IAC framework.

The fiscal impact of this legislation is difficult to quantify directly given the lack of specificity regarding implementation. It would likely result in additional funding to support our CIP program. Given that AACPS represents approximately 9% of the State's student enrollment and approximately 10% of the State's public school real estate footprint, it is estimated that AACPS could be eligible for approximately the same percentage of CIP funding if this legislation were to pass.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB153 with the suggested amendments.