



HB727 PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION - MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY - SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS

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BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

SUPPORT

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County supports **HB727 Public School Construction - Maryland Stadium Authority - Supplemental Funds**. This bill authorizes the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) to issue up to \$2.1 billion in revenue bonds, backed by annual payments of \$125 million from the Education Trust Fund beginning in fiscal year 2021, with the proceeds to be used for public school construction projects in the State. The bill also establishes the Public Schools Facilities Priority Fund. The Fund will receive \$40 million beginning in fiscal year 2022 and increase to \$80 million in fiscal year 2026 in mandated funding to address highest priority schools around the State on the School Facilities Assessment completed by the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC).

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) strongly supports the development and funding of adequate and equitable State and federal programs to assist localities with public school construction, renovation, and major maintenance projects. HB727 provides supplemental school construction funding that would help AACPS address our \$2.1 billion infrastructure backlog. We appreciate the General Assembly's efforts to adequately fund public school construction. We do have concerns that the funding under this bill, as amended, will now come from the Education Trust Fund in lieu of the State Lottery Agency. Utilizing the Education Trust Fund could negatively impact the funding stream that may be needed to support the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission.

AACPS appreciates the amendments that align the bill to the existing IAC framework as this will allow for greater efficiency and effectiveness. We strongly support that the amendments to ensure that local boards of education are involved in the decision-making process regarding whether to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Maryland Stadium Authority to contract, manage, and oversee public school facility projects funded from the supplemental public school construction financing fund and the supplemental public school construction facilities fund.

It would be helpful to better understand the formula used to determine the funding percentages stipulated within the Supplemental Public School Construction Financing Fund and the Supplemental Public School Construction Facilities Fund.

Overall, AACPS is pleased with the legislation. Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB727.