

SENATE BILL 1155

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4r1332
CF HB 1442

By: **Howard County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2024

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup to Study the Fiscal and Operational Viability of Public–Private**
3 **Partnerships for Howard County Public Schools – Established**

4 **Ho. Co. 14–24**

5 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup to Study the Fiscal and Operational
6 Viability of Public–Private Partnerships for Howard County Public Schools; and
7 generally relating to the Workgroup to Study the Fiscal and Operational Viability of
8 Public–Private Partnerships for Howard County Public Schools.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
10 That:

11 (a) There is a Workgroup to Study the Fiscal and Operational Viability of
12 Public–Private Partnerships for Howard County Public Schools.

13 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

14 (1) the Chair of the Howard County Senate Delegation, or the Chair’s
15 designee;

16 (2) the Chair of the Howard County House Delegation, or the Chair’s
17 designee;

18 (3) the County Executive of Howard County, or the County Executive’s
19 designee;

20 (4) two members of the Howard County Council, appointed by resolution of
21 the Council;

22 (5) two members of the Howard County Board of Education, appointed by

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 the Chair of the Howard County Board of Education;

2 (6) the Superintendent of Howard County Public Schools, or the
3 Superintendent's designee; and

4 (7) the Howard County Director of Finance, or the Director's designee.

5 (c) The Workgroup members shall elect the chair of the Workgroup.

6 (d) The Howard County Executive and the Superintendent of Howard County
7 Public Schools jointly shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

8 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

9 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

10 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
11 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

12 (f) The Workgroup shall study the use of public-private partnerships for school
13 construction in other counties and make recommendations on:

14 (1) the potential of public-private partnerships to reduce or increase the
15 speed of school construction;

16 (2) the potential of public-private partnerships to reduce or improve the
17 quality of school construction;

18 (3) the potential of public-private partnerships to reduce or increase
19 upfront costs associated with school construction;

20 (4) how public-private partnerships would achieve any reduction to the
21 upfront costs of school construction, including wages and benefits;

22 (5) the potential of public-private partnerships to reduce or increase
23 overall costs associated with school construction;

24 (6) how public-private partnerships would achieve any reduction to overall
25 costs of school construction, including wages and benefits;

26 (7) potential funding options for constructing schools using public-private
27 partnerships;

28 (8) the potential of public-private partnerships to reduce or increase the
29 overall costs associated with the operation and maintenance of schools;

30 (9) the potential arrangements for the ownership, operation, and

1 maintenance of schools built by public–private partnerships, including the benefits or risks
2 of each arrangement or model;

3 (10) the potential benefits or risks of financing schools constructed or
4 renovated through public–private partnerships, including the impact on Howard County’s
5 spending affordability limits and bond ratings;

6 (11) the potential legislative changes needed to facilitate the use of
7 public–private partnerships for school construction in Howard County; and

8 (12) any other potential benefits or risks of using public–private
9 partnerships for school construction.

10 (g) On or before December 1, 2025, the Workgroup shall report its findings and
11 recommendations to the Howard County Executive, the Howard County Council, the
12 Howard County Board of Education, and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State
13 Government Article, the members of the Howard County Delegation to the General
14 Assembly.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
16 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 7 months and, at the end of
17 December 31, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall
18 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.