

**BILL:** House Bill 221  
**TITLE:** Local Government – School Construction – Permits  
**DATE:** February 6, 2018  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations Committee  
**CONTACT:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports House Bill 221 because it would require local governments to expedite the permitting process to help ensure the timely completion of school construction and renovation projects.

Local boards of education greatly appreciate the intent of this legislation to promote an efficient and cost effective local government process to expedite the numerous permits required for the completion of the school facility construction and renovation projects. School systems are typically constrained in being able to work on school facilities, either by the presence of students during the school year or the limited duration of the summer break.

If enacted, this legislation would require local governments to develop expedited processes to prioritize school projects in order to avoid delays and minimize disruption to the school year and instruction of students. MABE is confident that an expedited permitting system could be implemented to streamline this essential step in the long and arduous process of developing and completing a school construction or renovation project.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on House Bill 221.