

BILL: House Bill 1000
TITLE: School Maintenance Incentive Funding Act of 2019
POSITION: SUPPORT
DATE: March 5, 2019
COMMITTEE: Appropriations Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), representing all of the State's local boards of education, supports House Bill 1000.

This bill would require the Governor to include a certain amount in the annual State budget for each county board of education to support the maintenance of school buildings and equipment; requiring a certain appropriation to be in addition to any other State funds provided to the county board in a certain fiscal year; and requiring each county board to use certain funds only for the maintenance of school buildings and equipment.

MABE believes that it is critical for local school systems to provide all of our public school students with school facilities conducive to learning. All local boards believe that providing a quality system of education must include providing safe, high quality school facilities in which all students can learn. Boards also greatly appreciate that Maryland's school construction program addresses the critical needs of schools with the greatest relative deficiencies, including facility conditions, capacity, and educational functionality.

However, our school facility needs, including ongoing maintenance and repairs, far exceed the amount of funding currently provided. We strongly support this legislation that will assist local school systems with the high costs associated with maintenance of our school buildings and equipment. House Bill 1000 would contribute to the bottom line for school systems striving to optimize available funds in the best interests of educating our students.

MABE acknowledges the magnitude of the fiscal impact of immediately enacting the school facility maintenance program envisioned by this bill, and hopes that this legislation leads to the implementation of greater State investment in school facility maintenance in the future.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on House Bill 1000.