

BILL: House Bill 291
TITLE: County Boards of Education - Bid Advertisement Threshold and Electronic Posting of Hearing Notices and Bid Advertisements
DATE: January 30, 2024
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Appropriations Committee
CONTACT: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports House Bill 291 to update and improve the state procurement laws governing the procurement policies and procedures of local school systems.

MABE is overall quite confident that the current state laws and regulations governing local school system procurements are sufficient in scope and clarity to provide the appropriate degree of accountability and flexibility to not only ensure sound procurement practices but also optimize cost savings for taxpayers. Local school systems, and professional purchasing and procurement staff, rely on a well-established understanding of the existing procurement law under the Education Article, State Finance and Procurement Article, and State regulations.

House Bill 291 would update Section 5-112 of the Education Article governing local school system procurement policies to include references to the eMaryland Marketplace and local school system websites. Importantly, the bill would also allow school systems to use their school system websites to provide notice of any public hearing regarding a school siting decision.

Again, MABE supports this bill's amendments to update and improve longstanding statutory language on school system procedures.

For these reasons, MABE requests a favorable report on House Bill 291.