

Chapter 992

(House Bill 1450)

AN ACT concerning

Howard County Task Force to Study Revenue Options for School Capital Needs**Ho. Co. 18-24**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Howard County Task Force to Study Revenue Options for School Capital Needs to identify capital needs of Howard County Public Schools and study options for closing any identified funding gaps; requiring the Howard County Council to submit a resolution to the Howard County Delegation if the Howard County Council determines a recommendation from the Task Force should be enacted but the Council lacks the authority to enact the recommendation; and generally relating to a Howard County Task Force to Study Revenue Options for School Capital Needs.

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

(a) There is a Howard County Task Force to Study Revenue Options for School Capital Needs.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the Chair of the Howard County Senate Delegation;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Chair of the Howard County House Delegation;

(3) the Howard County Executive, or the County Executive's designee;

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

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

(6) the Howard County Public School System Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee;

(7) one member of the Howard County PTA Council, appointed by the Council;

(8) two residents of Howard County, appointed by the Howard County Council;

(9) one voting member of the Howard County Spending Affordability Advisory Committee, appointed by the Howard County Executive;

(10) one voting member of the Howard County Spending Affordability Advisory Committee, appointed by the Howard County Council;

(11) the Howard County Director of Finance, or the Director's designee;

(12) the Howard County Budget Director, or the Director's designee;

(13) the Chair of the Howard County Agricultural Preservation Board, or the Chair's designee;

(14) the President of the Howard County Farm Bureau, or the President's designee;

(15) the Chief of the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services, or the Chief's designee;

(16) the President of IAFF 2000, or the President's designee;

(17) the Director of the Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development, or the Director's designee;

(18) the Chair of the Howard County Housing and Community Development Board, or the Chair's designee;

(19) the Director of the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, or the Director's designee; and

(20) the Chair of the Howard County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, or the Chair's designee.

(c) The County Executive shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The County Executive shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force.

(f) In consultation with Howard County Public Schools, the Howard County Department of Finance, and the Howard County Budget Office, the Task Force shall:

(1) identify the capital needs, including deferred maintenance, of Howard County Public Schools through 2035;

(2) determine the projected funding expected to be allocated to Howard County Public Schools capital projects through 2035;

(3) identify the anticipated funding gaps for Howard County Public Schools capital projections under current revenue projections through 2035; and

(4) study options for closing any identified funding gaps for Howard County Public Schools capital projects under current revenue projections through 2035, including:

(i) allocating a higher percentage of revenue from the transfer tax to Howard County Public Schools capital projects;

(ii) enacting a commercial excise tax;

(iii) exercising existing authority the County may use to generate additional revenue; and

(iv) ~~studying~~ any other potential revenue sources the Task Force determines appropriate.

(g) On or before ~~December 1, 2025~~ October 31, 2024, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to:

(1) the Howard County Executive;

(2) the Howard County Council; and

(3) the Howard County members of the House of Delegates and the Senate in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

(h) If the Howard County Council determines a recommendation included in the report submitted under subsection (g) of this section should be enacted but the Council or County lack the authority to enact the recommendation, the Howard County Council shall submit a resolution requesting the Howard County Delegation to the General Assembly authorize the Howard County Council to enact the specified recommendation.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.