



## HB156 PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITY FUND

February 26, 2019

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

### OPPOSE

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq., Legislative & Policy Counsel (410.703.5352)

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The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County opposes **HB156 Public Charter School Facility Fund**. This bill establishes the Public Charter School Facility Fund to provide funding to public charter schools in the State for school facilities. Each year, the Governor must appropriate to the fund an amount that equals or exceeds aggregate enrollment in public charter schools multiplied by \$1,600.

The proposed legislation could result in fewer public funds available to AACPS for school construction and capital improvements because charter school projects would now be in competition with other AACPS projects. The addition of charter school facilities in no way lessens the needs of local school systems to address the needs of these facilities and yet has the potential to diminish access to the existing and limited available funding stream. Additional projects could compete against more pressing district projects and adding public charter school projects could limit more pressing district facility needs.

Additionally, charter schools already get a pro rata share of operating funds from a school system to support operations and maintenance functions and, thus, these bills could potentially create a windfall for a charter school by funding a charter school twice for the same activities.

AACPS has approximately 2,557 students enrolled in public charter schools. These bills would result in funding of up to \$1,600 per student. As such, approximately \$4,091,200 of available State education funding could be redirected to charter schools while still obligating AACPS to continue to fund charter schools with pro rata operations and maintenance operating funding from our General Fund.

Accordingly, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB156.