



HB469 STATE-FUNDED CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR RENOVATION PROJECTS - SOLAR PANELS – REQUIREMENT

HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB469 State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects - Solar Panels – Requirement**. This bill requires specified construction and major renovation projects which are proposed after December 31, 2021, receive State funding, and are carried out by the State or local governments to be designed, engineered, and constructed in a manner that allows the roof to withstand the weight of solar panels. Such projects must include the placement of the maximum number of solar panels for which the project was designed. The Maryland Green Building Council must recommend design considerations consistent with the bill's intent.

AACPS has taken great steps to reduce our energy use. In fact, in 2017, AACPS celebrated our 1.4 MW solar panel farm. The completed project features nearly 4,000 panels that will produce 1,971 MWh of electricity annually. According to our calculations, this solar panel farm will also offset more than 41,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. That is equivalent to one year of carbon dioxide emissions from 4,357 homes. AACPS also has a partnership with the City of Annapolis where the school system purchases energy from the City's solar panel farm. Additionally, new AACPS school construction projects are built in a manner that can accommodate solar panels, if it is sound to use them.

While we support efforts to reduce our carbon footprint, this legislation is an unfunded mandate and does not align with sound engineering principals, widely accepted life-cycle economic costing methodologies, or best practices within energy management and building maintenance. Each building is unique, and the most appropriate energy management and HVAC system should be selected via an exhaustive engineering analysis utilizing broadly accepted sound life-cycle cost modeling. Mandating such a one-size fits all approach defies all sound logic and would lead to increased costs to the taxpayer at both the initial cost point of construction as well as over the 40-50-year ownership period.

While it is difficult to quantify, this legislation could result in millions of additional dollars in initial construction costs as well as millions in additional dollars in operating costs over a 40-50-year lifespan of the district's real estate portfolio.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB469.