

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

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**Meeting Date:** 10/17/2000

**Reference No.:** CR-51-2000

**Proposer:** Russell

**Draft No.:** 2

**Sponsors:** Russell

**Item Title:** A Resolution establishing a School Construction Panel to review and make recommendations on improving processes and procedures associated with school construction and to address the impact of rising construction costs in the Washington-Metropolitan area as they relate to school construction

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**Drafter:** Darlene Brady  
Special Assistant for Budget &  
Finance

**Resource** Nell Johnson  
**Personnel:** Legislative Aide

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:**

**Date Presented:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Executive Action:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Committee Referral:** 9/26/2000 HEHS

**Effective Date:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Committee Action:** 10/12/2000 FAV

**Date Introduced:** 9/26/2000

**Public Hearing:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ \_\_:\_\_ \_\_

**Council Action:** 10/17/2000 ADOPTED

**Council Votes:** DB:A, JE:A, IG:A, TH:A, WM:A, RVR:A, AS:A, PS:A, MW:-

**Pass/Fail:** P

**Remarks:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10/17/2000:** Amended on the floor; DR-2 adopted

**HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**      **DATE:** 10/12/00

Committee Vote: Favorable, 4-0, (In favor: Council Members Scott, Bailey, Gourdine and Russell).

Staff summarized the legislation indicating CR-51-2000 establishes a School Construction Panel

to make recommendations on avoidance of school construction program delays, and addresses improving processes and procedures and review the impact of rising construction costs in the Washington Metropolitan area as they relate to school construction.

Council Member Russell, the sponsor of the legislation, explained that several school construction projects in his district have fallen behind schedule and additional projects have been identified as being in threat of delay. The rising construction costs in the Washington-Metropolitan area and securing skilled workers are attributed to the delays.

Currently, there is a School Construction/Park School Project Team that considers cost impact as well as other school construction issues. Carolyn Scriber chairs this Project Team. Council Member Russell indicated that this is not a duplication of efforts, since the School Construction Panel will consist of policy makers and will be co-chaired by the Superintendent of Schools and the County's Chief Administrative Officer. While the School Construction/Park School Project Team is ongoing with their efforts, the School Construction Panel must report to the Council with their findings and recommendations by January 8, 2001.

The Legislative Officer and the Office of Law finds it to be in proper legislative form. The County Executive supports CR-51-2000. The Office of Audits and Investigations determined that there should not be any negative fiscal impact on the County as a result of adopting CR-51-2000.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT**

**(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)**

The County and the Public Schools Systems are challenged with completing an extraordinary school construction program for 26 new schools and numerous school rehabilitations. The Council is concerned that several of these projects have fallen behind schedule and that additional projects have been identified as being in serious threat of delay. It is of critical importance to Prince George's County that the school construction program schedule be maintained in order to meet our goals of returning to a network of neighborhood schools, achieving accountability in the public school system, and to address overcrowding and aging school facilities. This resolution proposes the establishment of a School Construction Panel to specifically review existing school construction procedures and processes, both at the State and local levels, and to make recommendations on streamlining these procedures. The Panel should also review the impact of rising construction costs in the Washington-Metropolitan area and make recommendations on how these additional costs can be addressed.

## **CODE INDEX TOPICS:**