

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2017 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-14-2017

Proposed by Council Members Franklin, Davis, Glaros, Harrison, Patterson, Turner, Taveras

Introduced by Council Members Franklin, Davis, Glaros, Harrison, Patterson,
Turner, Taveras, Lehman and Toles

Date of Introduction March 28, 2017

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Use of Casino Revenues for State Aid to Primary and Secondary Education

3 For the purpose of expressing the County Council's disapproval of using Education Trust Fund
 4 revenue from Maryland's casinos to supplant or reduce the State's general fund investment in
 5 state aid to primary and secondary education.

6 WHEREAS, the six casinos authorized by Maryland voters over the last decade were
 7 advocated as a significant way to increase the State of Maryland's investment in public education
 8 and academic achievement; and

9 WHEREAS, the Maryland Education Trust Fund ("Education Trust Fund") was established
 10 as the nonlapsing state funding mechanism through which Maryland's casinos would contribute
 11 to public education in the state; and

12 WHEREAS, Maryland's casinos contributed \$403,846,000 to the Education Trust Fund in
 13 fiscal year (FY) 2016 and are projected to contribute \$466,569,000 in FY2017 and \$546,675,000
 14 in FY2018; and

15 WHEREAS, by FY2018, MGM National Harbor, located in Oxon Hill, MD in Prince
 16 George's County, is projected to be Maryland's largest contributing casino to the Education
 17 Trust Fund; and

18 WHEREAS, the Foundation Program – Aid to Education (hereinafter "State Aid to Primary
 19 and Secondary Education") is the major state aid program for primary and secondary education,
 20 providing a foundation grant that estimates the amount of funding necessary to provide adequate
 21 resources to educate the average student; and

22 WHEREAS, the State Aid to Primary and Secondary Education formula was established by

1 the Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act of 2002, based on the recommendation by the
2 Maryland Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence, commonly referred to as
3 the “Thornton Commission,” named after the Commission’s Chair and former Prince George’s
4 County Board of Education Chair, Dr. Alvin Thornton; and

5 WHEREAS, Governor Larry Hogan’s proposed FY2018 budget proposes to invest
6 \$2,693,209,534 in net general fund expenditures to State Aid to Primary and Secondary
7 Education, a reduction of \$52,584,245 from the FY2017 budget allocation of \$2,745,793,779 in
8 net general fund expenditures, reflecting a lack of “maintenance of effort” by the State in its net
9 general fund investment in primary and secondary education; and

10 WHEREAS, Governor Larry Hogan’s proposed FY2018 budget proposes to spend
11 \$546,675,313 from the Education Trust Fund to State Aid to Primary and Secondary Education,
12 an increase of \$87,831,101 over FY2017’s allocation, in part to compensate for or “supplant” the
13 reduction and lack of maintenance of effort in proposed state net general fund investment in
14 State Aid to Primary and Secondary Education; and

15 WHEREAS, according to *the Baltimore Sun*, before casinos opened in 2011, Maryland spent
16 21 percent of its \$31 billion general fund revenue on public schools, while, in 2017, with
17 revenues at \$42 billion, the state is spending just 18 percent of its general funds on public
18 schools; and

19 WHEREAS, utilizing Maryland casino contributions to the Education Trust Fund to supplant
20 and allow reductions in the State’s net general fund maintenance of effort to State Aid to Primary
21 and Secondary Education undermines public trust that voter approval of Maryland’s casinos
22 would result in a significant increase in public investment in public education; and

23 WHEREAS, in future fiscal years, the Maryland casino contribution to the Education Trust
24 Fund is projected to continue to increase allowing opportunity for further supplanting of state net
25 general fund investment in State Aid to Primary and Secondary Education; and

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George’s
27 County, Maryland, that the County Council opposes Governor Hogan’s proposed FY2018
28 reduction in state net general fund investment in State Aid to Primary and Secondary Education.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council also opposes utilizing the Education
30 Trust Fund to supplant or allow reductions in the State’s net general fund investment in State Aid
31 to Primary and Secondary Education under FY2017 levels.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council urges the Maryland General
2 Assembly and Governor to incorporate a nonsupplantation amendment to the State’s authority to
3 use funding from the Education Trust Fund for State Aid to Primary and Secondary Education so
4 that increases in the Education Trust Fund from Maryland casino revenue above FY2017 levels
5 will directly inure to the benefit of Maryland’s public school children and increase the formula
6 funding for State Aid to Primary and Secondary Education instead of replacing or supplanting
7 other state funding support.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption a copy of this resolution is expeditiously
9 transmitted to the Maryland Governor, President of the Maryland Senate, Speaker of the
10 Maryland House, Chair of the Maryland Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs
11 Committee, Chair of the Maryland House Ways and Means Committee, Chairs of the Prince
12 George’s County House and Senate Delegations, and Prince George’s County Executive.

Adopted this 28th day of March , 2017.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Derrick L. Davis
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council