



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

MAR 8 2017

Chairman
Derrick Leon Davis
Council Member, District 6

The Hon. Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Hon. Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
House Ways and Means
Lowe House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: **Bill Position - SB 994 – School Overcrowding Reduction Act of 2017 –
SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Kasemeyer & Delegate Kaiser:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Prince George's County Council, to transmit our position on SB 994 – School Overcrowding Reduction Act of 2017, which is before you this 2017 General Assembly Session. The Council met on March 7, 2017. The enclosed statement reflects our position as the bill is currently drafted.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to work together with you and your colleagues to address issues important to Maryland citizens and the operation of Prince George's County. Should you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me. For your convenience my office phone number is (301) 952-3426. Thanks again, for favorable consideration of the Council's position.

Sincerely,

Derrick L. Davis
Chair

Enclosure

cc:

Hon. Jim Rosapepe, District 21
Hon. Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

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THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

(SB 994)
Senator Jim
Rosapepe

School Overcrowding Reduction Act of 2017

POSITION:

SUPPORT

SB994 - School Overcrowding Reduction Act of 2017 renames the Maryland Stadium Authority to the "Maryland Construction Authority" and authorizes local governmental units to request assistance from the Authority regarding public school facility construction projects. The bill also establishes a design-construct-operate-maintain-finance arrangement as an alternative financing method.

Every year the Prince George's County Council has made appropriate funding for our educational system and public school construction needs a legislative priority requiring partnership with the General Assembly. According to the Prince George's County Public School's Educational Facilities Master Plan, over \$8.5 billion is still needed in three cycles over the next 20 years (2017-2036) to fully modernize building systems and components, repair or replace our existing schools, or expand existing capacities.ⁱ Alternative funding sources are critical to ensuring that adequate educational facilities are provided to meet the needs of the over 129,000 students and nearly 23,000 full and part-time employees that we serve.

School overcrowding and deterioration of facilities are major problems that we share in common across the State. However, because each public school district is also unique, with varying needs, a singular approach to school renovation and construction is problematic. SB994 takes into account the work and recommendations of the 21st Century School Facilities Commission by offering flexibility and a new avenue for all jurisdictions in Maryland to seek financing for school construction, and to do so utilizing efficient, effective, economical, and innovative ways.

Our children deserve a comfortable, safe, secure, accessible, well illuminated, well ventilated, and aesthetically pleasing environment in which to learn and grow. We believe this very comprehensive bill is a creative approach to reduce overcrowding, repair old buildings, and accelerate construction of new buildings; and will help us to achieve our school construction and renovation goals so we can provide our children with the facilities they require in order to do their very best work.

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Prince George's County Council

SB 994 School Overcrowding Reduction Act of 2017 -- SUPPORT

Therefore, the Prince George's County Council appreciates the opportunity to offer its **SUPPORT** for SB 994. We respectfully request your favorable consideration of our position.

Prepared by: Tony Perez
 LA Perez Consulting
 Jennifer A. Jenkins
 On behalf of Prince George's County Council

¹ <http://www1.pgcps.org/cip/index.aspx?id=215244>