

Proposed PTA Council Position on School Facilities Surcharge Increase

Adopted by PTACHC General Assembly on January 7, 2019

The PTA Council of Howard County (PTACHC) generally supports the increase of the School Facilities Surcharge for new construction in Howard County as proposed in Ho. Co. 03–19 (see draft bill at [Howard County Bill Drafting Link](#)) with the following caveats:

- The proposed bill increases the Surcharge from \$1.00 per square foot to \$4.00 per square foot. While PTACHC considers this a step in the right direction, it is concerning that there has been no market-based analysis. PTACHC believes that the 5-year review of the rate and impact should include such an analysis, to compare to neighboring counties that have an impact fee, and to assess how the rate corresponds to new and expanded school construction needs in the County.
- The proposed bill has a requirement that Surcharge revenue can only be used for improvements/repairs or new schools that serve the construction area. PTACHC believes that this is excessively restrictive, would not adequately serve county residents, and would be difficult to maintain in the face of redistricting. Because of these reasons, PTACHC believes this locality requirement should be removed,