

**PTA COUNCIL HOWARD COUNTY  
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE NOVEMBER 2021**

There is a steady stream of legislative activity that affects education in Howard County. The PTA organization is based on **ADVOCACY** for the well-being of children. Do not take a passive role; become involved and engaged in these matters through PTACHC or independently. In many cases, PTACHC is the **SOLE** representative organization advocating for children in countywide legislation.

**State Delegation** – Meets **ONCE A YEAR** on state bills that affect Howard County. These bills have just been posted. Late filed bills will appear later. Public testimony is in November for bills to be passed in early 2022.

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/state-delegation/2022-proposed-local-legislation>

**LR744 – HOWARD COUNTY SCHOOL REDISTRICTING PROGRAM** – This is a PTACHC originated bill sponsored by Senator Hester – To fund a pilot program to bring analytical review and tools to HCPSS from Maryland State academia. This will include comparative analysis and reporting of past present and future trends. This bill is actively being updated and is currently not listed on the Delegation Site.

[Howard County Board of Education – School Safety Personnel \(Delegate Atterbeary School Resource Officers Act of 2022\), Ho. Co. 1-22](#) By Delegate Atterbeary

*FOR the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education to develop a plan to implement certain school safety guidelines that replaces school resource officers in public schools in Howard County with adequate law enforcement coverage provided by school coverage officers, effectively addresses the need for certain personnel, and requires school coverage officers and school security employees to complete a certain model training program; defining the term “school coverage officer”; requiring the county board to solicit and incorporate input from stakeholders in the Howard County Public School System and school community; and generally relating to school safety personnel in Howard County.*

[Howard County – Due Process Proceedings for Children With Disabilities – Burden of Proof, Ho. Co. 2-22](#)  
By Senator Hester

*FOR the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education to bear the burden of proof in due process proceedings that initiate from a due process complaint regarding the provision of special education services or a program for a child with disabilities in Howard County except under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the burden of proof in due process proceedings and the Howard County Board of Education.*

[Howard County – Department of Housing and Community Development – Housing Opportunities Trust Fund, Ho. Co. 5-22](#) By Delegate Feldmark and Senator Guzzone

FOR the purpose of establishing the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund as a non-reverting special fund to be used to promote equitable access to affordable housing for households of limited income in Howard County; requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development for Howard County to report on the activity of the Fund during the prior fiscal year on or before a certain date each year; and generally relating to funding for affordable housing in Howard County.

[Howard County – Commercial Building Excise Tax – Board of Education Deferred Maintenance, Ho. Co. 8-22](#) By: Delegate Atterbeary

FOR the purpose of authorizing the County Council of Howard County to impose an excise tax on commercial building construction; requiring the excise tax revenue to be used only for deferred maintenance needs identified by the Howard County Board of Education; and generally relating to a commercial building excise tax in Howard County and deferred maintenance in the Howard County Public School System.

**Howard County – Public Schools – Alternative Instruction Model Policy, Ho. Co. 9-22** By: Delegate Watson

FOR the purpose of providing that the use of an alternative instruction model constitutes a certain public school being open for pupil attendance for the purposes of meeting certain school day and hour requirements; authorizing the Howard County Board of Education to adopt a policy allowing a public school in the county to use an alternative instruction model under certain circumstances; and generally relating to an alternative instruction model policy in Howard County public schools.

## **Legislative Bond Initiatives (Education Related)**

[Accessible Trail Extension: \\$130,000](#)

[Centennial Park West Area Playground: \\$200,000](#)

[Grassroots Crisis Services: \\$500,000](#)

[Howard County Last Mile Fiber and Public Wifi: \\$500,000](#)

[Leola Dorsey Community Resource Center: \\$150,000](#)

[Rockburn Branch Park Playground: \\$150,000](#)

[Route 40 Pedestrian Bridge: \\$150,000](#)

[Waterloo Park Playground: \\$150,000](#)

[West Friendship Park: \\$400,000](#)

## **Howard County Council**

<https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/> To Write All Council members – Councilmail@HowardCountyMD.gov

Items Scheduled for a vote this evening (Nov 1)

**County Resolution CR 144, 145** - APFO school overcrowding exemption for Roslyn Rise. This case will determine if potential adjacent redistricting in a system with negative net capacity as well as affordable housing delivery are sufficient to override APFO overcrowding protections.

This also has tie-ins with redistricting for socio-economic deconcentrations of poverty and capital project mitigation rates - Only one technical amendment filed.

**CR154-2021** – A Resolution approving the BOE Capital Budget to Submit to the Maryland Interagency Commission on School Construction

**NEW LEGISLATIVE ITEMS** – Public Hearing on November 15 7PM George Howard Building  
CB-66-2021 – Determining when School Facilities Surcharge is paid – particularly for fee-in-leu affordable housing.

CR163-2021 – Supplemental approval of unassigned fund balance for FY 2023 in the amount of \$15M

CR164-2021- Convey 10.18 acres on Resort Road Turf Valley to the school system.

CR 166 -2021 A new APFO School Overcrowding Exemption

**COMPLETE STREETS** – <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/DM-updates> The complete streets design manual was released recently for feedback. This includes many safety factors for walking children. The effort focuses on “prioritization” of projects which may indicate a need for additional funding sources to meet local needs sooner Many traffic standards have been improved but some have been loosened. Please review this for specific items that should be supported and for items that could be improved before submitted for final approval.

**OTHER** – A Considerable amount of environmental legislation is underway. These are not typically a PTACHC legislative priority, but may be of interest to members, particularly the following:

## **HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL PLAN** (<https://www.hocobydesign.com/>)

This is a significant effort **that should not be underestimated in any regard by membership**. While there is a very brief hiatus now as final drafts are being written, PTA members should be clearly familiar with the HOCO BY DESIGN resources and changes that positively or negatively affect education. Members should be prepared to participate in any feedback opportunities which arise on short notice.

## **HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING**

Once a decade the council boundaries are changed based on latest census results. This now influences not only who represents you at a council level, but also influences residency requirements and boundaries of elected BOE members. Council districts do not align with DPZ planning regions or HPCSS planning regions.

**HCPSS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** – PTACHC and HCPSS operate as separate entities. There are instances where legislative support aligns. Please review the HCPSS agenda regularly.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpsmd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=ABKNSY6159A6>

**POLICY 6010** Public Hearing Nov 2 2021 (HCPSS) – In the strictest sense, this is policy, not legislation, this policy is tightly interrelated with growth patterns, land use, APFO, mitigation, state law, budgets and more. PTACHC has a long running and consistent position that schools should not be reallocated above 100% capacity

utilization and that intentional expansion of concentrations of poverty is not supported. These positions are the basis for PTACHC support or opposition of policy 6010 specifics.

### **Items to watch at county level throughout October**

\***COVID-19 impacts** - Rescue Plan Financial Impacts

\***HOCO BY DESIGN** - recommendations, changes to zoning (comp zoning), APFO revision (one year after)

\***Renaming** – Public Spaces Commission – (meets 11/1/2021 5:30PM). Potential renaming of schools, libraries, roads and parks.

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/public-spaces-commission/public-spaces-commission-november>