

PTACHC Legislative Update for December 2021

A primary role of the PTA is to ADVOCATE for children.

PTACHC provides this information to delegates to inform all members and provide feedback for official positions for ongoing advocacy. If your membership is not made aware of these items, they are missing the opportunity to contribute positively as an organization and as individuals.

How can I help? Contact legislative@ptachc.org

Recent items – Erikson at Limestone Valley passage – Potential traffic impacts to Clarksville, River Hill, Rt.108, affects HCPSS Board of Ed Campus and firehouse decision.

HOCO by DESIGN

- General Plan Update – Significant long-term impacts on growth and school resources. Final Draft pending on unspecified date – PTAs need to be prepared to participate in short notice implementation process through spring.
- Notable items – Education recommendations (smaller footprint, taller, cheaper - outsourced). Also density increasing items that affect enrollment growth rates and infrastructure needs.

Update – An internal memo announced the General Plan will be paused until the completion of the November 2022 elections. Advice to local units: this pause provides opportunity to address educational issues not included in the Draft. It also allows significant time for lobbying by entities that compete for educational resources. Do not take a pause yourself, take advantage of the time to learn more and promote education. There is no guarantee that the “pause” could be rescinded.

Zoning Board:

- Courthouse, Hickory Ridge - Large Capital project, large enrollment impact project (TBD)
- Nov 24 – Design Advisory Panel – New Cultural Center Garage - Large capital project – educational resource competition.

Dec. 2nd Planning board – Clubhouse project - Negligible educational items

Dec. 6, 2021 – Council legislative session. Items to be decided (passed, tabled, or amended)

CB-83-2021 – Police Accountability Board – If implemented will probably review SRO/SCO operations

CB-86-2021 – Timing of School Facilities Surcharge, Fee-in-Lieu and Road Excise Tax at same time. Notable that the change occurred as a council bill without special committee. Also notable that the interaction of these 3 items are being considered together, just as potential future rate adjustments could be reviewed together.

CR-163-2021 – Use of \$15M of fund balance – has future budget implications on HCPSS reserves.

CR-166-2021 – An APFO exemption for 3 units handicapped housing. Notable more for the impact of the project or projects that shifted the obligation. – Request made to council to track sending amounts, receiving amounts and cumulative overcrowding exemptions.

Dec. 7, 2021

Policy 6010 update – Notable changes in participation and notice. Analytical process mentioned, 110% “target” utilization retained in draft. External efforts to prioritize socioeconomic values as second highest priority.

Dec. 8, 2021 – Council monthly meeting to review recently introduced legislation

Dec. 13, 2021 – Council Meeting with BOE

Late December 2021 - New pre-filed Legislation – Pending late December for January introduction, testimony and Feb vote. (Council on December break)

Mid-January 2022 – Start of State Legislation session – Check progress of Statewide and Local bills

State Delegation – Meets ONCE A YEAR on state bills that affect Howard County. These bills have been posted. Late filed bills will appear later. Public testimony is in November for bills to be passed in early 2022. PTACHC has testified on these items in public session; however, positions are pending for several of these going forward.

<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 fully drafted but is currently not listed on the Delegation Site or has been scheduled for public testimony.

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

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.

*Locals asked to discuss and prepare for position vote at the December General Meeting

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