



## Council Bill continues protection of classrooms from overcrowding



**Bill 52-23 also aims at efficient use of school construction funds and addresses shortage of affordable housing.**

**The Anne Arundel County Board of Education is preparing a redistricting exercise** that will address the overcrowding in many county schools and the underutilization of many others. It will take at least two years to complete this process.

**Some issues in our schools can't wait.**

**After about 18 months of study, the County Administration is introducing a bill that continues protection for students in County schools.** It also addresses the shortage of affordable housing in the county and makes more efficient use of the county's school construction dollars.

**Bill 52-23 makes several improvements in how the county deals with schools:**

- limit development when a school is at 100% capacity.
- Adjust the timeline for the publication of the school chart, requiring the Office of Planning and Zoning to prepare the chart for delivery to the County Council by March 1st of each year. The school utilization chart will be based on numbers provided by AAC Public Schools by February 1st each year.
- Require the Office of Planning and Zoning and AAC Public Schools to make publicly accessible the student yield generation and capacity methodology used to determine schools open or closed to development due to school enrollment capacity.

Proposed Bill 52-23 also creates a new provision that allows for a development project to pass the APF test if an adjacent school has sufficient available capacity at the corresponding school level for the students from the new development.

**To address the scarcity of affordable housing, proposed Bill 52-23 also includes a limited exception for qualified affordable housing projects.** GAN believes this bill provides consistency while increasing transparency of the school APF process. The Bill supports a 100% capacity utilization rating for all county schools and establishes sound requirements for exceptions to these ratings.

**We believe this bill sets the table for the Board of Education to take on school redistricting OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.**

The Bill was introduced at the June 5, 2023 County Council meeting and is scheduled to be heard at the July 3, 2023 County Council meeting. **If no amendments are added to Bill 52-23, the Bill can be voted on at the July 3, 2023 meeting.**

GAN supports Bill 52-23 as written and encourages its members to contact their Council representatives to voice their opinion.

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## **Campaign funding bill passes with unanimous support**

The Public Campaign Financing Bill, 25-23, enables candidates for County Executive and the County Council to apply for public financing of their political campaigns. This new legislation allows candidates who are not funded by special interests but who have created a substantial base of support in the community to have a voice and be heard. To qualify, candidates must forgo corporate sponsorship and raise a threshold sum through contributions of less than \$250.

The bill and its amendments can be seen at [this link](#).

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## **Bring Your Own Bag bill passes 6-1**

In a big win for the environment [Bill 19-23](#) will dramatically reduce the number of plastic bags in circulation. These bags choke animals, pollute roadsides and waterways, and have an almost infinite lifetime in landfills. The bill will go into effect January 1, 2024.

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