

SENATE BILL 235

F1, M3, M5

3lr1549
CF 3lr1655

By: **Senator West**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2023

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **School Buildings – Solar Technology – Solar Panels on Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring local school systems to consider whether certain schools
4 should be constructed during a certain period of time with solar panels on the roofs
5 of the schools; requiring local school systems to provide to the Interagency
6 Commission on School Construction an explanation for a decision not to include solar
7 panels as part of the construction of a school; and generally relating to school
8 buildings and solar technology.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 5–319
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 5–319.

18 (a) The Interagency Commission shall adopt regulations that require the design
19 development documents for the construction or major renovation of school buildings
20 submitted by a county board to the Interagency Commission to include:

21 (1) An evaluation of the use of solar technologies, including photovoltaic or
22 solar water heating, based on life cycle costs; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) If an evaluation determines that solar technologies are not appropriate for a construction or major renovation project, a report that explains why the use of the technology is not appropriate.

(B) (1) FOR EACH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTED BY A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM FROM JULY 1, 2025, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2034, BOTH INCLUSIVE, THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL CONSIDER WHETHER THE SCHOOL SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTED WITH SOLAR PANELS ON THE ROOF OF THE SCHOOL.

(2) IF, AFTER CONSIDERING INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM DECIDES NOT TO HAVE SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED ON THE ROOF OF THE SCHOOL, THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL PROVIDE TO THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION AN EXPLANATION FOR THE DECISION NOT TO INCLUDE SOLAR PANELS AS PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL.

[b] (C) On or before December 31 of each year, the Interagency Commission shall submit a report [on the number of public school construction and major renovation projects in each jurisdiction that use solar technologies] to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the [General Assembly] PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE THAT SPECIFIES:

(1) THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR RENOVATION PROJECTS IN EACH JURISDICTION THAT USE SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES; AND

(2) A LIST OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR RENOVATION PROJECTS IN EACH JURISDICTION IN WHICH A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM DECIDED NOT TO HAVE SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED ON THE ROOF OF THE SCHOOL, INCLUDING AN EXPLANATION FOR THE DECISION BY EACH JURISDICTION NOT TO INCLUDE SOLAR PANELS AS PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2023.