



House Bill 628

Board of Public Works - Relocatable Classrooms - Indoor Air Quality Requirements

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget & Taxation Committee

Date: March 19, 2014

From: Robin J. Clark

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 628. This bill would require the Board of Public Works to adopt regulations that establish criteria to enhance the indoor air quality for relocatable classrooms built after July 1, 2014, that are purchased or leased with State or local funds. The safety of students is important to MACo and our partners in education and we support the prospective application of these relocatable classroom regulations.

The law which created the regulatory authority for indoor air quality, *Chapter 223, Laws of 2007*, states in an uncodified portion that the Act “shall be construed to apply only prospectively.” There was a delay in issuing the indoor air quality (IAQ) regulations required under Chapter 223 and when the draft regulations were issued in 2013, they were initially made retroactive to 2007. This legislation clarifies that the indoor air-quality requirements apply only to relocatable classrooms purchased after July 1, 2014. We join our partners in education, the Maryland Association of County Boards of Education and the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland, in supporting the regulations and clarifying their prospective effect.

HB 628 will allow the indoor air quality regulations to protect the health and safety of our school children. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 628 and recommends the Committee issue a **FAVORABLE** report.