R041-0607

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING OVERCROWDING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS: Overcrowding in public schools places an unnecessary strain on both students and teachers; and,

WHEREAS: New residential construction adds additional students to already overcrowded schools; and,

WHEREAS: New construction requires existing infrastructure to support it; and

WHEREAS: Perry Hall High School, one of the largest high schools in Baltimore county, had an addition completed in 1998 to alleviate overcrowding, which was only able to bring the school back to capacity. The next year, the school was above capacity. Since completion, the school has gained enough new students to require several outdoor classroom trailers and a second addition. The school is still overcrowded; and,

WHEREAS: Public schools are required to provide education for children of taxpaying citizens, regardless of how many students reside within their school zone; and,

WHEREAS: Increasing population trends will lead to more students than the current school systems can handle; and,

WHEREAS: Schools operating above capacity have higher maintenance costs due to additional wear and tear; and,

WHEREAS: Elevated student to teacher ratios are more prevalent in overcrowded schools.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature urges the Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation restricting new residential development in areas containing schools which meet or exceed their posted capacity.

MANDATES: Martin O'Malley, Governor, State of Maryland
Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President, Maryland State Senate
Michael E. Busch, Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates
Edward J. Kasemeyer, Majority Leader, Maryland State Senate
David R. Brinkley, Minority Leader, Maryland State Senate
Kumar P. Barve, Majority Leader, Maryland House of Delegates
Anthony J. O'Donnell, Minority Leader, Maryland House of Delegates

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