

Introduced 01.05.2026  
Public Hearing 01.20.2026  
Council Action 02.02.2026  
Executive Action 02.09.2026  
Effective Date 04.11.2026

## County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 1

Bill No. 10-2026

Introduced by: Liz Walsh

SHORT TITLE: : Excess Surplus Revenue- Modification

AN ACT To modify the restriction on the use of excess surplus revenue pursuant to Section 615B of the Howard County Charter in order to use excess surplus revenue from prior years to fund deferred school maintenance needs in the Fiscal Year 2028 budget; and generally relating to excess surplus revenue.

Introduced and read first time Jan 5, 2026. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.  
By order Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on Jan 20, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on Feb 2, 2026 and Passed ☒, Passed with amendments \_\_\_\_\_, Failed \_\_\_\_\_.

By order Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 3 day of February 2026 at 5<sup>00</sup> a.m./p.m.

By order Michelle Harrod  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive Feb 9, 2026

Calvin Ball  
Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [text in brackets] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1           **WHEREAS** the County Executive will prepare the Annual Budget and Appropriation  
2 Ordinance of Howard County, Fiscal Year 2028 that contains the capital and operating budget for  
3 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2028 (FY28 Budget); and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education for Howard County’s proposed capital budget for  
6 Fiscal Year 2027 submitted to the Maryland Interagency Commission on School Construction  
7 (“IAC”) requested local funding in the amount of \$68.2 million; and  
8

9           **WHEREAS** seven prior fiscal year’s capital budgets have similarly limited the County’s  
10 annual allocation for all combined Howard County Public School System projects-to an average  
11 \$58.3million:

12                 In FY2026, the County allocated to School System Projects \$66.7M in local  
13                 general bonds, excise tax, pay as you go, and transfer tax funds (State Aid for  
14                 Schools in FY2026 was \$33.8M);  
15

16                 In FY2025, the County allocated to School System Projects \$61.2M in local  
17                 general bonds, excise tax, pay as you go, and transfer tax funds (State Aid for  
18                 Schools in FY2025 was \$14.5M);  
19

20                 In FY2024, the County allocated to School System Projects \$51.6M (State  
21                 Aid for Schools was \$57.5M);  
22

23                 In FY2023, the County allocated to School System Projects \$54.3M (State  
24                 Aid for Schools was \$51.5M);  
25

26                 In FY2022, the County allocated to School System Projects \$57.3M (State  
27                 Aid for Schools was \$33.1M);  
28

29                 In FY2021, the County allocated to School System Projects \$68.7M (State  
30                 Aid for Schools was \$33.7M); and  
31

1 In FY2020, the County allocated to School System Projects \$48.5M (State  
2 Aid for Schools was \$6.1M); and  
3

4 **WHEREAS**, the County for these several years has underfunded, and so deferred, an ever-  
5 growing backlog of identified schools' maintenance needs to the detriment of both the students  
6 and staff daily inside those ailing buildings; and  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, excess surplus revenue from prior fiscal years' budgets exists in material  
9 respect:  
10

11 In FY2025, in the amount of at least \$37.9M (Annual Comprehensive  
12 Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025, p. 96);  
13

14 In FY2024, in the amount of at least \$36.5M (Annual Comprehensive  
15 Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024, p. 87);  
16

17 In FY2023, in the amount of at least \$76.1M (Annual Comprehensive  
18 Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023, p. 86);  
19

20 In FY2022, in the amount of at least \$34.5M (Annual Comprehensive  
21 Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022, p. 82);  
22

23 In FY2021, in the amount of at least \$24.5M (Annual Comprehensive  
24 Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021, p. 77);  
25

26 In FY2020, in the amount of at least \$21.8M (Annual Comprehensive  
27 Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020, p. 75); and  
28

29 In FY2019, in the amount of at least \$18.4M (Annual Comprehensive  
30 Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019, p. 76).  
31

1           **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 615B of the Howard County Charter, the use of excess  
2 surplus revenue is restricted to: (1) fund capital projects, (2) reduce existing County debt; and/or  
3 (3) fund appropriations in the current expense budget for capital outlay and for non-recurring  
4 expenses; and

5  
6           **WHEREAS**, Section 615B also provides that the restriction on the use of excess surplus  
7 revenue may be modified by an ordinance passed by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members of  
8 the County Council; and

9  
10           **WHEREAS**, The County Council wishes to modify the restriction on the use of excess  
11 surplus revenue to allow for the use of excess surplus revenue to fund deferred maintenance needs  
12 of the Howard County Public School System capital projects in the FY 2028 Budget.

13  
14           **NOW, THEREFORE,**

15  
16           ***Section 1. Be It Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, the*  
17 *restriction on the use of excess surplus revenue permitted in section 615B of the County Charter*  
18 *is modified to allow the use of excess surplus revenue from prior fiscal years for deferred*  
19 *maintenance needs of the Howard County Public School System FY 2028 Capital Budget.*

20  
21           ***Section 2. And Be It Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that,*  
22 *this modification only applies to the Fiscal Year 2028 Operating and Capital Budgets, and at the*  
23 *end of Fiscal Year 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the County Council, shall be*  
24 *abrogated and of no further force and effect.*

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on February 09, 2026.

Michelle Harrod  
Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council