

**Toolkit for Supporting Senate Bill 256 and House Bill 334, Identical Bills Entitled
Public Schools-Physical Education Facilities**

February, March 2010

1. Basic Facts

- **Purpose of Bills:** to require State Department of Education to adopt
 - A) Regulations requiring public schools that are newly constructed or completely renovated and occupied on or after January 1, 2013, to include a gymnasium and adequate support space for physical education instruction, and
 - B) Guidelines for facilities for physical education programs.

- **Hearing Information:**
 - A) Senate Bill 256-Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 1:15 PM, Senate Budget and Taxation Hearing Room, 3 West Wing, Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis.
 - B) House Bill 334- Wednesday, March 3, 2010, 1:00 PM, House Ways and Means Hearing Room, Room 131, House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis.

- **Committee Information**

<u>A) Senate Budget and Taxation (B & T)</u>	<u>District</u>
<u>Ulysses Currie, Chair</u>	25
<u>Edward J. Kasemeyer, Vice-Chair</u>	12
<u>David R. Brinkley</u>	4
<u>James E. DeGrange, Sr.</u>	32
<u>George C. Edwards</u>	1
<u>Verna L. Jones</u>	44
<u>Nancy J. King</u>	39
<u>Rona E. Kramer</u>	14
<u>Richard S. Madaleno, Jr.</u>	18
<u>Nathaniel J. McFadden</u>	45
<u>Donald F. Munson</u>	2
<u>Douglas J. J. Peters</u>	23
<u>James N. Robey</u>	13
<u>J. Lowell Stoltzfus</u>	38
<u>Robert A. (Bobby) Zirkin</u>	11

Budget and Taxation Phone: (410) 841-3690, (301) 858-3690
Budget and Taxation Fax: (410) 841-3091, (301) 858-3091

Link to everything you could possibly want to know about B&T;
<http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/05sen/html/com/01bud.html>

(Once on this page, click on each member's name for an individual profile.)

<u>B) House Ways and Means</u>	<u>District</u>
<u>Sheila E. Hixson, Chair</u>	20
<u>Ann Marie Doory, Vice-Chair</u>	43
<u>Joseph R. Bartlett</u>	4A
<u>Kumar P. Barve</u>	17
<u>Joseph C. Boteler III</u>	8
<u>Jon S. Cardin</u>	11
<u>D. Page Elmore</u>	38A
<u>C. William Frick</u>	16
<u>Ronald A. George</u>	30
<u>James W. Gilchrist</u>	17
<u>Carolyn J. B. Howard</u>	24
<u>Jolene Ivey</u>	47
<u>Anne R. Kaiser</u>	14
<u>Peter F. Murphy</u>	28
<u>LeRoy E. Myers, Jr.</u>	1C
<u>John A. Olszewski, Jr.</u>	6
<u>Craig L. Rice</u>	15
<u>Justin D. Ross</u>	22
<u>Christopher B. Shank</u>	2B
<u>Melvin L. Stukes</u>	44
<u>Frank S. Turner</u>	13
<u>Jay Walker</u>	26

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Link to everything you could possibly want to know about Ways and Means;

<http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/06hse/html/com/07ways.html>

(Once on this site, click on each member's name for an individual profile.)

2. Constituent Influence

Legislators are usually more responsive to their own constituents, particularly this year since it is an election year. If you are in the same legislative district as any of

the members of these committees, be sure to make that known. If you are not sure what district you are in, click onto this website:
<http://mdelect.net/electedofficials/>

3. Your Participation is Needed to:

- A) Testify at hearings;
- B) Provide letters of support to committee chairs and members at time of hearings;
- C) Arrange and attend personal meetings with committee chairs and members immediately prior to/immediately following committee hearings;
- D) Telephone committee chairs and members immediately prior to/immediately following hearings;
- E) Submit letter-to-the-editor immediately following hearings.

4. Technical Assistance

A) General Advice

* Keep it simple and keep it personal!! If you are communicating as a constituent, let that be known immediately. For written communications, use plain stationary with your home address and contact information plainly visible. It is your home address that determines your legislative district.

B) General Format for Communications

1. First indicate that you strongly support the bill.

I enthusiastically support SB 256/House Bill 334 which, when enacted and implemented, would ultimately result in there being adequate and appropriate space for quality physical education instruction in all schools newly designed or renovated after January 1, 20113. There are currently 191 elementary schools in the state that do not have gyms.

2. Then note what passage of the bill would accomplish.

Passage of this legislation would contribute towards preventing and reducing childhood overweight and obesity, significant risk factors for heart disease, diabetes, certain cancers, orthopedic disorders, psychosocial problems and many other health threats. It will also help reduce the financial burden on the state of treating obesity related illnesses.

3. Next, and most important of all, (especially if you are communicating as a constituent), specify why this bill is important to you and your loved ones. Use a personal example if possible.

This issue is important to me personally because-----

4. Finally, tell them what you want them to do. If you are communicating as a constituent, you can be firm and state that you will be checking back to see how your legislator voted.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 256. /HB334.

C. Specific Guidelines:

1. When testifying at hearings, arrive one hour early to sign the witness book and deliver copies of your testimony to the committee office. The Senate requires 30 copies and the House requires 40. Your testimony should follow the general format above and should be addressed as follows:

**To: Ulysses Curry, Chair
Edward J Kasemeyer, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

From: Sarah Jones

**Re: Support for SB 256-Public Schools-Physical Education Facilities
or**

**To: Sheila E. Hixson, Chair
Ann Marie Doory, Vice Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee**

From: Sarah Jones

Re: Support for HB 334-Public Schools-Physical Education Facilities

2. When just providing letters of support to committee chairs and members at time of hearings without signing up to testify, follow above directions re timing and number of copies.

3. When setting up personal meetings with committee chairs and members, focus on those who are in your district. You will have five to ten minutes with the legislator so use them wisely. Identify yourself as a constituent and verbally cover the same format as above.

4. When telephoning a legislator, you will probably have to leave your message with staff. Again, focus on those for whom you are a constituent. Tell the staff the following:

Your name, your home address and the message that you are a constituent calling in support of SB 256/HB 334. Indicate that this is an important issue for you and your family and that you want the legislator to vote in its favor.

5 When sending a letter to the editor, focus on the local newspaper of the legislator and follow the submission directions of that paper. Use the same format as above: You are writing to support bill #----. If passed and enacted into law, the bill would accomplish the following----. This is important because----- . You strongly urge the legislator/committee to support this legislation.

D. A review of “talking points:”