

**Chapter 280 of the Acts of 2001**

**SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal years [2002 and 2003] 2002 THROUGH 2004, in each year, the State shall provide 90 percent of the eligible costs for up to and including \$20 million in public school construction projects in Baltimore City, and for funding above \$20 million, the State shall provide 75 percent of the eligible costs.

**SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That, notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1 of this Act, Baltimore City shall appropriate for school construction in fiscal [2002 and 2003] YEARS 2002 THROUGH 2004, in each year, at least \$12.4 million, the amount that Baltimore City appropriated in fiscal 2001 to match the State funds provided in fiscal 2001 for school construction in Baltimore City.

**SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of [2] 3 years and, at the end of [June 30, 2003] JUNE 30, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

**SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That:

(a) There is a Task Force to Study Public School Facilities.

(b) The Task Force shall review, evaluate, and make findings and recommendations regarding the following issues relating to the State's school construction program:

(1) whether public school facilities are adequate to support programs funded through an adequate operating budget as proposed by the Commission on Education Finance, Equity, and Excellence in its January 2002 Final Report;

(2) the equity of the State's school construction program, particularly the equity of the State and local cost shares for school construction projects;

(3) whether the Aging Schools Program should be continued as a permanent program; and

(4) any other matter that the Task Force determines to be relevant to an evaluation of the adequacy and equity of the State's school construction program.

(c) The Commission shall be composed of 21 members as follows:

(1) a chairman appointed by the Governor;

(2) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) two members of the House of Delegates of Maryland, appointed by the Speaker of the House;