

NEWS BRIEF:

Bill to Allow School Tax Hike without Referendums Fails

JUNE 14, 2019 -- A bill that would have given school boards the limited ability to raise taxes without referendums failed to get released from committee on Wednesday.

[House Bill 129](#) sought to allow taxes to be increased 2% annually, or a rate equal to the increase in a designated Consumer Price Index, whichever was greater.

At the House Education Committee hearing, the bulk of the testimony was in opposition to the bill. Some were at odds with the measure because it would eliminate the ability of citizens to impact the tax hikes the legislation sought to facilitate. Others maintained that the bill was a half-measure that should be discarded in favor of fundamentally reforming the way Delaware funds public education.



The legislation failed to win enough votes to be released from the committee. While the bill is still technically eligible to be worked through June 30, 2020, the hearing illustrated it likely lacks the needed support among legislators, citizens, and members of the education community to move forward.

Lead sponsor of the proposal and Education Committee Chairman, [State Rep. Earl Jaques, D-Glasgow](#), said he would hold meetings over the next six months to get input for a new education funding bill.