

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1276  
County Property Tax – Classification of Real Property and Authority to Set  
Special Rates**

**House Ways & Means Committee  
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The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1276, which allows counties to set special real property tax rates for subclasses of property that could help local governments raise needed revenue to implement the new school funding formula our students and schools need.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for the careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

House Bill 1276 gives counties additional flexibility to set taxing policy that works for their constituents and gives counties another tool to help fund local priorities like public education. This bill is simply enabling legislation that gives local leaders one more tool when crafting local tax policy.

MSEA supports passage of an adequate, sustainable, predictable revenue stream that will adequately fund both the operating and construction costs of our public schools. A great public school for every child means our students have updated technology, small manageable classes, safe and modern schools, proper healthcare and nutrition, and have highly qualified and highly effective educators. The work of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission) further recommends improvements to access to Pre-K and Career Technology Education, as well as expansion of the educator workforce and increased salaries to help deliver individualized instruction and recruit and retain the best workforce in the country.

The Kirwan Commission has determined that the state and county governments will need to invest substantially more resources into education for our citizens become truly successful in the very competitive national and global economies. House Bill 1276 is part of that funding solution.

**MSEA urges a favorable report of House Bill 1276.**