

SUPPORT
House Bill 919
Property Tax – County Authority to Set Special Rates

House Ways and Means Committee
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Samantha Zwerling
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 919, which gives counties greater authority raise revenue in a fair manner to fund priorities like education. The bill could help local governments raise needed revenue to implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future with fidelity.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. 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).

HB 919 gives counties additional flexibility to set taxing policy that works for their communities. This enabling legislation gives local leaders another tool when crafting local tax policy and could help raise additional funds for priorities like public education. 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.

Implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future with fidelity and making up for the educational, and social-emotional and behavioral health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will take considerable resources. This bill helps counties meets their commitments to the students and families in their communities.

MSEA urges a Favorable Report on House Bill 919.