

**Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 640  
Primary and Secondary Education – Maintenance of Effort Requirements -  
Alterations**

**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
February 23, 2022**

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Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 640, which changes the maintenance of effort requirements for public school funding in Fiscal Year 23.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for 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).

MSEA supports 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.

This bill would help to ensure that schools are appropriately funded during this difficult time of recovery from the pandemic. Between the infusion of the federal funds, the artificial reduction in student enrollment, and the changes under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future education funding has been in flux. This bill would result in an increase in local appropriation in 14 jurisdictions. Those funds are needed during this time when our schools are facing staffing shortages and our students are facing increased needs to recover from the pandemic.

**For those reasons, MSEA urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 640.**