

FAVORABLE
Senate Bill 843
Workers' Compensation – Benefits – Hearing Loss

Senate Finance Committee
March 5, 2024

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Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 843. Among other things, Senate Bill 843 amends current law to provide that a covered employee may have a compensable claim for hearing loss attributable to tinnitus for purposes of Maryland's Workers' Compensation Act.

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).

Public school employees, like many other workers, are at risk of hearing loss due to the nature of their work. Whether it be noisy classrooms, working grounds or building maintenance, or transporting students to and from schools, public school employees are routinely exposed to loud environments, which may lead to hearing loss attributable to tinnitus over time. MSEA supports legislation that requires tinnitus to be considered part of a covered employee's hearing loss for purposes of workers' compensation.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 843.