



# Prince George's County Municipal Association

*An Association of 27 Municipalities*



March 4, 2024

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair  
Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building  
Room 131  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Support with Amendment for SB191 - Prince George's County - Property Tax Credit - Public School Employees PG 503-24**

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB191. We write on behalf of the 27 municipalities that make up the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), which collectively represents more than 955,000 residents, to share our support of this bill with amendments.

There is an ongoing teacher shortage and hiring crisis in education around the country. The recent passage of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and the Maryland Educator Shortage Reduction Act of 2023 provided additional funding, goals, and incentives to expand and elevate the State's public school workforce, and the education outcomes of our students. Across the state, Counties are using these programs to increase salaries and find creative ways to attract and keep the right talent in their schools. Prince George's County, like many other jurisdictions, faces challenges in both recruiting and retaining highly qualified teaching and administrative staff.

This bill would give Prince George's County the authority to provide real property tax credits to eligible employees of Prince George's County public schools, providing an additional incentive in recruiting talent to not only work but to stay and live in our County. Employees with connections to the local community have a statistically significant impact on increasing student outcomes.

While we applaud the bill's intent to attract school employees to live and invest in Prince George's County, we are concerned for those who have already chosen to make our County their home. For example, a resident who grew up in Prince George's County, or who rents in a dwelling located in the county appear to be ineligible for the tax credit. We respectfully request an amendment to strike J.2.I., which currently reads " (I) DID NOT RESIDE IN THE COUNTY BEFORE PURCHASING THE 17 DWELLING FOR WHICH THE CREDIT IS CLAIMED; AND" to give Prince George's County the ability to include current residents in the establishment of the tax credit eligibility.

For the reasons above and more, PGCMA therefore respectfully requests the Committee **support the proposed amendments for SB191.**



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Sincerely,

**Melinda Mendoza**

Melinda Mendoza

PGCMA President

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