

SUPPORT
County Income Tax – Rate and Income Brackets – Alterations
Senate Bill 70

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
January 15, 2025

Samantha Zwerling
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association strongly supports Senate Bill 70, which gives counties greater authority raise revenue in a fair manner to fund priorities like education. The bill could help local governments create a progressive tax structure and 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 over 40 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

SB 70 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 continues to take considerable resources. This bill helps counties meet their commitments to the students and families in their communities.

MSEA strongly urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 70.