

SUPPORT
**Property Taxes – Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a
Special Rate for Commercial and Industrial Property**
House Bill 23

House Ways and Means Committee
January 28, 2025

Samantha Zwerling
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association strongly supports House Bill 23, which gives counties greater authority raise revenue to fund priorities like education. The bill is enabling and would allow counties to be more nimble in their funding needs.

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).

House Bill 23 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.

MSEA strongly urges a favorable report on House Bill 23.