

**FAVORABLE
House Bill 387
Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act**

**House Ways and Means Committee
February 13, 2025**

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Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 387, which would establish an excise tax for firearm dealers who sell firearms in Maryland. The bill also directs some revenue generated from the excise tax to the Coordinated Community Supports Partnership Fund.

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).

Gun violence continues to wreak havoc across our nation and across our state. For too long, and too often, senseless gun violence has robbed Marylanders of their loved ones. Families, schools, and communities continue to be devastated and shattered by the unimaginable high number of lives taken from gun violence, whether these acts were accidental or intentional. This bill is a part of the solution to reduce gun violence in Maryland.

This bill allocates some of the revenue generated by the excise tax to the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports. The Consortium, created by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, is charged with ensuring that all students and their families can access behavioral health resources. This funding would support the critical role the Consortium plays in connecting students to evidence-based services, especially in the face of the funding cuts to the Consortium proposed in the FY 26 budget.

MSEA urges a favorable report of House Bill 387.