

SUPPORT
Property Taxes - Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special Rate
for Commercial and Industrial Property
Senate Bill 224

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
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Sean Johnson
Executive Director

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 224, which would give counties greater authority to raise revenue to fund priorities like transportation and education. The bill is enabling and would allow counties to differentiate property tax rates and better meet funding needs for critical priorities.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 40 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Senate Bill 224 provides flexibility for counties to set property tax policies that work best for their communities. This enabling legislation gives local leaders another tool when crafting differentiated property tax rates that could yield additional dollars to meet transportation and education needs. Additionally, such dedicated purposes can free up other local general fund dollars to better meet other priorities..

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 urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 224.