



**Testimony in SUPPORT of  
House Bill 90: Property Taxes – Authority of Counties to Establish a Subclass and Set a Special  
Rate for Commercial and Industrial Property**

**Ways and Means Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

January 27, 2026

Strong Schools Maryland is a statewide network of parents, educators, and advocates committed to the full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. **We support House Bill 90 because it gives counties a responsible, targeted option to raise revenue for essential public investments, including public education.**

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future establishes clear expectations for delivering a world-class education system, from access to high-quality pre-K and expanded student supports to competitive educator pay and strong college and career readiness pathways. Meeting these commitments requires stable and adequate funding at both the state and local levels. At the same time, counties are facing rising education costs alongside increasing demands on local budgets. House Bill 90 responds to this reality by providing counties with greater flexibility to meet their obligations.

House Bill 90 authorizes counties to levy a modest special property tax rate on commercial and industrial properties, with revenue dedicated exclusively to public schools and transportation improvements. This is enabling legislation. It does not require counties to act, but allows local leaders to determine whether this tool makes sense for their communities.

This approach also advances equity. Residential property taxes can place a disproportionate burden on low-income families, who already pay a larger share of their income in property taxes than wealthier households. Allowing counties to raise limited revenue from commercial and industrial properties can help rebalance local tax systems while generating funds needed to support strong public schools. Investments in education are among the most effective ways to close opportunity gaps and strengthen Maryland's long-term economic future.

**For these reasons, Strong Schools Maryland urges the Ways and Means Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 90.**

**For more information, contact Riya Gupta at [riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org](mailto:riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org)**