

Testimony in OPPOSITION of House Bill 1161
Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – School Supplies

House Ways and Means Committee
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Samantha Zwerling
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association respectfully opposes House Bill 1161, which would create a subtraction modification for computer equipment, computer software, athletic supplies, and other school supplies.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland’s public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. 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).

While we understand the intent of this legislation, we believe the bill is not tailored narrowly enough. HB 1161 does not distinguish between public school students and nonpublic school students, who have been impacted differently by the pandemic. Further, the bill does not include any income level requirements for eligibility. If the intent of this bill is to provide relief for Marylanders who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, it should include narrow guardrails. Many wealthy families have not been financially impacted by the pandemic and have been able to renovate their homes to create classrooms. Those families do not need this subtraction modification, and those funds could be used to better support public school students.

MSEA respectfully asks for an unfavorable report on House Bill 1161.