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Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1007: Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024

Ways and Means Committee

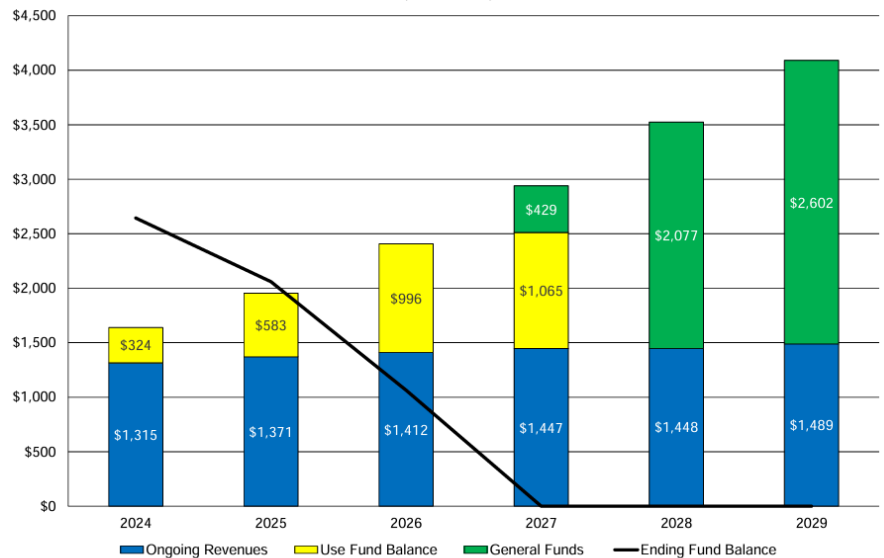
Position: Favorable

February 22, 2024

Prior to the enactment of the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future in 2021, Strong Schools Maryland was focused on two things: the passage of the recommendations that became the Blueprint and its full funding. To date, that original mission is only half-met. Even now, three years later, as the Strong Schools Maryland Network has grown and we’ve collectively turned our attention to implementation, the lack of sustained funding to implement the law blights our success. **We seek to eliminate that blight as we submit this testimony in support of House Bill 1007, the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2024.**

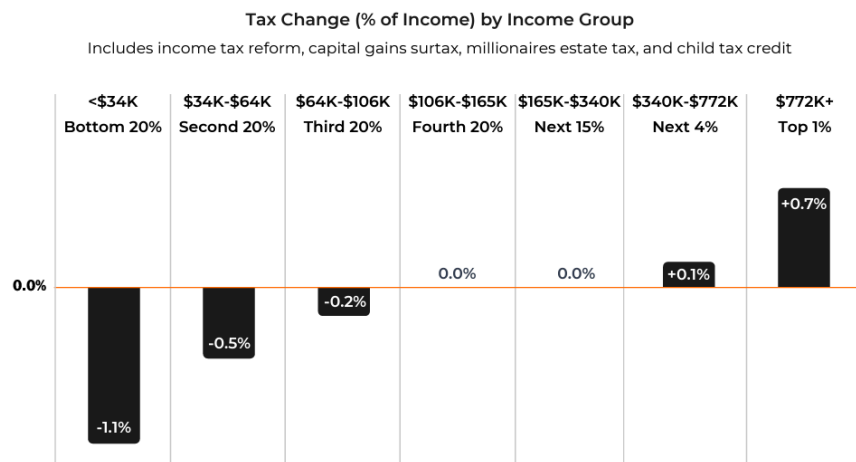
One way or another, the General Assembly and Administration must maintain their commitment to fully funding public schools for the duration of the Blueprint’s implementation timeline—and beyond! Without action from these leaders, the Blueprint Special Fund will be depleted in FY25, just a couple of years from now. Unfortunately, Maryland has a documented history of promising education funding increases in the form of

Estimated Blueprint Costs and Funding Sources
 Fiscal 2024-2029
 (\$ in Millions)



various policy reforms (most recently 2002's Bridge to Excellence law), then failing to fully fund those measures. We don't have to repeat that embarrassing history when we see the pitfalls of the future and are equipped with viable, sustainable solutions..

Fair Share for Maryland Plan Would Boost Working Families, Ask More of the Wealthy Few



Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy

HB 1007 embodies the Fair Share for Maryland Plan, which would generate about \$1.7 billion in new state revenue at a time when the state is facing a significant growing structural deficit that threatens the success of all public life in Maryland. We would achieve this by

holding large multinational corporations at least as accountable for contributing to the state as we hold small businesses; implementing a sensible individual tax structure that Marylanders pay into according to their ability to pay, rather than the inverse proportions we have in place now.

We know the time to act is now—State Comptroller Lierman has been clear that her office requires several years' lead time in order to secure staff and update departmental infrastructure to conduct the kind of complex auditing this measure would require. There is no good reason to wait to act when we know vital programs like the Blueprint, Child Care Scholarship program, transportation, and so many of our shared priorities are on the line.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 1007.

For more information, contact Shamoyia Gardiner at shamoyia@strongschoolsmaryland.org