



2025 MGA Legislation Session Recap



MML Staff

Theresa Kuhns, CEO

Angelica Bailey Thupari, Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy & Research

Justin Fiore, Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

Tyler Brice, Manager, Advocacy & Public Affairs

Iris Ibegbulem, Senior Associate, Advocacy & Public Affairs

2025 Session – By the Numbers

- 278 Bills Reviewed
- 181 Positions Taken
 - 60 Support
 - 41 Support with Amendment
 - 59 Oppose
 - 25 Watch
- 343 Fiscal Note Responses
- 55 Hearings



HB 343/SB 390

Motor Vehicles - Speed Monitoring Systems - Statements and Certificates of Violations

- MML Priority Bill.
- The bill permits all local governments to use a trained technician to review speed camera images and sign citations.
- A floor amendment added in the Senate defines "reasonable training" that applies to technicians and law enforcement officers prior to issuing a speed camera citation.
- Both bills passed both chambers in the slightly amended form; set to become law on October 1, 2025.

HB 997 / SB 324

Admissions and Amusement Tax – Food and Beverage

- MML, MACo, and Baltimore City Priority Bill.
- As introduced, the bill would have authorized counties and municipalities to impose A&A fee on food and beverages consumed on-site.
- SB 324 was passed by the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee before stalling.

HB 102

Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Revisions

- MML supported with amendments.
- Implementation of the State Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) program is pushed back ~18 months.
 - For those employers that plan to use the State plan, mandatory contributions begin on January 1, 2027 (delayed from July 1, 2025) and
 - Claims for benefits now open between January 1, 2027 and January 3, 2028 TBD by Department of Labor (delayed from July 1, 2026).
- Also clarifies that local government employers are not required to escrow contributions during pre-funding period.
- The bill passed in amended form and will become law June 1, 2025.

SB 215

Cannabis Reform - Revisions

- MML initially supported.
- The bill, as introduced, dealt with the operations and permitting of cannabis on-site consumption facilities and cannabis events.
- Amendments in the Senate removed much of the initial language and instead revisited the issue of distances between dispensaries, and dispensaries and sensitive properties.
- Local governments that have not adopted an ordinance regarding these distance requirements are subject to the distances set in State law.
- Passed in the amended form; set to become law on July 1, 2025.

SB 871 / HB 1062

Cybersecurity Planning and Assessments- Community Water and Sewage Systems

- Opposed as introduced because the bill would require regular expensive third-party assessments and implement a Zero Trust cybersecurity model that would cost municipal water and wastewater networks more money
- The bill was amended changing requirements to recommendations and guidelines for any crisis or emergencies
- Bill also amends the Public Information Act (PIA) to exempt records related to security of critical infrastructure and operational technology from public disclosure.
- Bill passed

SB 867 / HB 1468

Cyber Maryland Program- Revisions

- Similar to SB 241/ HB 82, also introduced this session
- Allows for the Cyber Maryland Program to issue competitive grants and contracts beginning in fiscal year 2026, allowing local entities to apply.
 - These grants and contracts would enhance the cybersecurity workforce development and the operational technology in the State
- The bill also authorizes the Governor for the fiscal year of 2027 and every year after, to include a sufficient appropriation in the budget bill to run the program.
- Bill Passed

SB 342

Voting Rights Act of 2025 - Counties and Municipal Corporations

- Banned counties and municipalities from structuring local elections in ways that weaken the ability of racial, ethnic, or language minority groups to elect candidates of their choice or influence election outcomes, outlining how such violations would be identified and proven.
- Also authorized the Attorney General and private individuals to file lawsuits to enforce this rule, and authorized courts to step in with remedies if a violation is found.
- Did not pass.

HB 1466 / SB 891

Land Use and Real Property - Accessory Dwelling Units - Requirements and Prohibitions

- Based on the [Accessory Dwelling Unit Policy Task Force's 2024 Report](#)
- Establishes a new state policy to support the creation of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on properties with single-family homes, to help address housing needs.
- Requires local governments to pass laws that allow ADUs, stops property rules from unfairly blocking homeowners from building or renting out an ADU, and lets homeowners' associations (HOAs) treat an ADU like a separate lot for voting and fees.

SB 430 / HB 503

Land Use - Regional Housing Infrastructure Gap (Housing for Jobs Act)

- HB 503 was later amended to the "Housing Development Act"
- Original: Local governments with a housing “gap” between jobs in the region and housing units needed would be required to quickly approve new housing projects and blocked from rejecting projects without sufficient “justification.”
- Amended: Set new housing targets; created the Housing Opportunities Made Equitable (HOME) Commission to study housing challenges; and granted developers "early vesting" rights.
- Neither version passed.

HB 80 / SB 190

Land Use - Transit-Oriented Development - Alterations

- Preempted local governments from imposing minimum off-street parking requirements within 0.5 miles of a rail transit station, and altered special taxing districts around transit-oriented developments (TODs).
- Crossed over, but was amended and failed in Committee.

HB 350 / SB 319

HB 352 / SB 321

Budget & BRFA

- MGA balanced a \$3.3 billion dollar deficit with ~2 billion in cuts and \$1.6 million in new revenues.
- New revenues include: income tax adjustments, capital gains tax increase, cannabis tax increase, gaming tax increase, 3% sales tax on information technology services, and various fee increases.
- Municipal HURs, Program Open Space, and Police Aid all protected.
- Includes trigger for MGA to return for more cuts.

HB 322 / SB 88

SBE Municipal Election Support

- MML worked with SBE to address a legal grey area identified in the fall of 2024.
- Allows SBE to enter MOUs with municipalities to lease voting machines.
- Also allows municipalities to join the State ballot with shorter notice.
- As emergency legislation it went into effect once signed by Governor Moore.

HB 909 / SB 732

Sewage Sludge Utilization Permits - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

- Would have imposed strict limits on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in sewage sludge permitted for land application.
- The legislation raised concerns about shifting the burden of PFAS regulation onto local governments, many of which do not have the capacity to monitor or remove these chemicals at the source.
- The sponsor agreed to hold the bill for further study in a future session, with a commitment to reassess the balance between environmental protection and local feasibility.

SB 937/HB 1035

Next Generation Energy Act

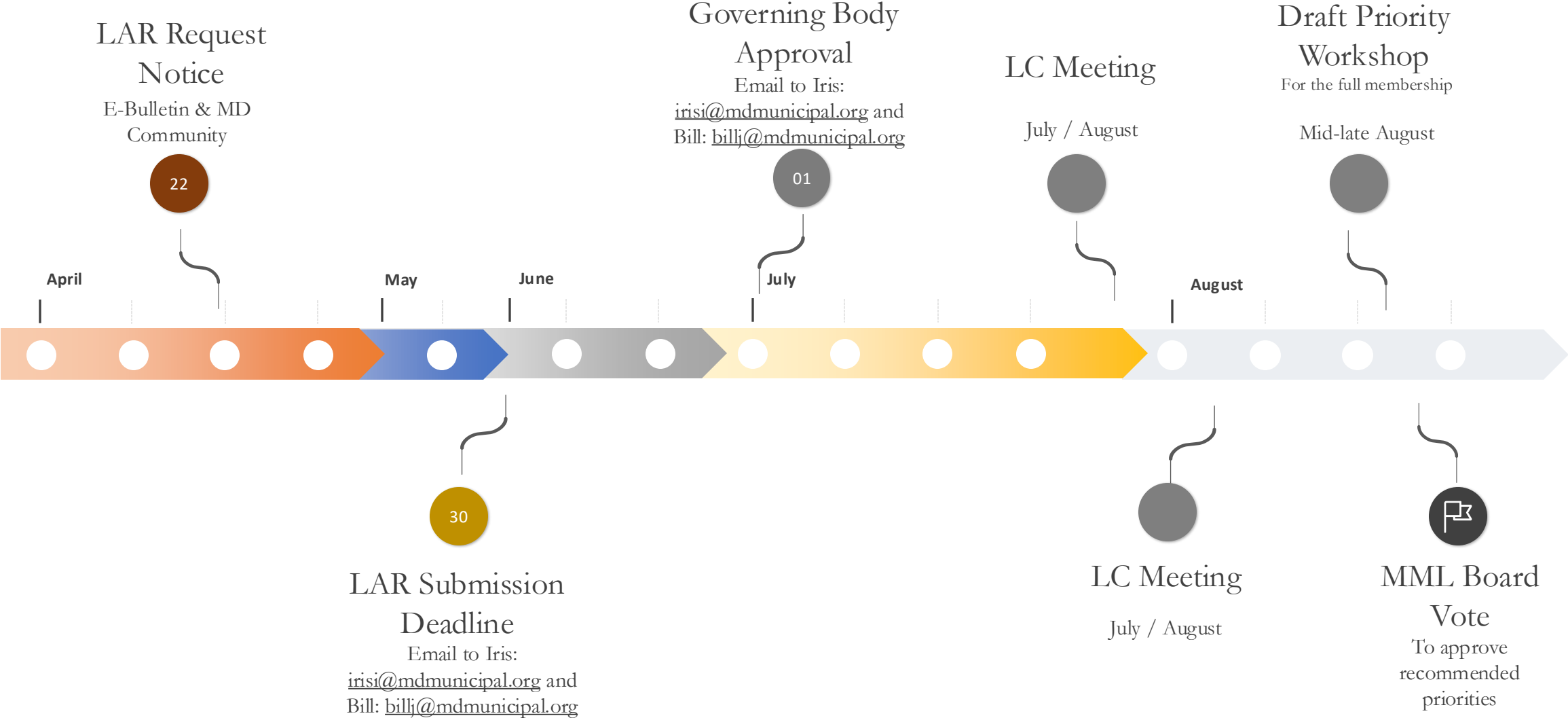
- Comprehensive clean energy legislation supporting nuclear, solar, emissions reductions, and electric grid modernization.
- The League backed a key amendment, adopted by the committee, that gives municipalities the choice to opt in to community solar programs, helping address the financial hurdles many local governments encounter.
- Establishes a long-term framework for clean energy investment while ensuring our local governments can make informed decisions that match their unique energy and fiscal profiles.

HB 232/SB 346

Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

- The "Bottle Bill."
- Proposed a statewide recycling refund program to incentivize return of beverage containers and reduce litter.
- The League submitted a clarifying amendment and supported the bill due to strong interest from member municipalities looking to strengthen local recycling programs.
- The program promised dual benefits: environmental improvements through reduced waste and economic returns through deposit refunds, particularly for communities burdened by cleanup costs.
- While the legislation did not advance this session, it brought renewed attention to the importance of local recycling infrastructure and funding models.

LAR Submission and Adoption Timeline





**Members make
the difference!**



The MML Advocacy & Policy Team



Theresa Kuhns
Chief Executive Officer
theresak@mdmunicipal.org

Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.,
Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs
angelicab@mdmunicipal.org

Bill Jorch, Director,
Public Policy & Research
billj@mdmunicipal.org

Justin Fiore, Deputy Director,
Advocacy & Public Affairs
justinf@mdmunicipal.org

Tyler Brice, Manager,
Advocacy & Public Affairs
tylerb@mdmunicipal.org

Iris Ibegbulem, Senior Associate,
Advocacy & Public Affairs
irisi@mdmunicipal.org