



PRESS RELEASE

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MML JOINS COMMITTEE CHAIR JHEANELLE WILKINS IN PUSH FOR REVENUE MODERNIZATION TASK FORCE

(February 25, 2026) Annapolis, MD. – The Maryland Municipal League (MML) testified before the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday in strong support of HB 1142, the League’s sole 2026 legislative priority. The legislation, which creates a Task Force to modernize outdated local government revenue structures, is sponsored by the Chair of the Committee, Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins.



Municipal Leaders in Favor of HB 1142 join Ways and Means Chair and bill Sponsor Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins After Hearing

MML CEO Theresa Kuhns joined Chair Wilkins and a panel of municipal leaders from across the state to underscore the urgent need for new fiscal tools. Under current Maryland law, municipalities and counties are heavily reliant on property taxes to fund essential services, even as local economies grow more complex.

“Our cities are the hubs of tourism and commerce, yet we lack the modern tools to capture a fair share of that activity to pay for the police, roads, and parks that support it,” said Theresa Kuhns, CEO of the League. “Maryland is one of only six states that fails to share tax revenue from the sale of goods and services with local governments or allow those governments to collect it themselves. Because we lack the modern tools to capture a fair share of that commerce, the fiscal burden of supporting these high-traffic economies falls almost entirely on the local property owner. It's not sustainable.”

Joining Kuhns in support of the bill was a diverse panel of municipal leaders who shared firsthand accounts of the "fiscal handcuffs" created by the current system. Maryland local leaders highlighted that while cities and towns provide the infrastructure that supports Maryland's hospitality and retail sectors, the state's 60-year-old revenue model—unchanged since 1967—prevents them from benefiting from that economic activity.

HB 1142 aims to address these inequities by establishing a path toward modernizing revenue streams. MML 2025-2026 President, Mayor Todd J. Nock, City of Pocomoke City shares, “As I sat before the committee, I was thinking about Princess Anne, Snow Hill, Berlin, Crisfield, and of course Pocomoke. Communities working every day to serve their residents with limited and outdated revenue tools. We saw testimony from the smallest of Maryland communities to its largest—it is time to have the data to aid our discussions and solutions. Strong municipalities strengthen Maryland.”

ABOUT THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) was founded in 1936 and serves as the collective voice of 161 municipal governments and the 2 million Marylanders it represents. A voluntary, non-profit, nonpartisan association controlled and maintained by city and town governments, MML works to strengthen and support municipal government through advocacy and the development of effective leadership. Through its membership in the National League of Cities MML offers legislative representation in Washington, urban research programs, and a national municipal government information exchange. MML is the only statewide organization in Maryland composed solely of municipal officials and devoted to the promotion of all branches of municipal administration.