



Maryland Municipal League  
*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

TESTIMONY

February 25, 2020

**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations

**Bill:** HB 648 – Maryland Emergency Management Agency - Definitions and Authority

**Position:** Support with Amendments

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 648, with amendments. The bill clarifies the authority of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), particularly as it pertains to emergencies in local jurisdictions. Some of the authorities in the bill as introduced are problematic but can be resolved through amendments.

After working with the Maryland Association of Counties and MEMA, amendments have been constructed to address the concerns of local governments. Two main points are included in the amendments. First, clarification that MEMA's preparation and coordination is not a preemption of local authority. Second, that MEMA's intervention in an emergency in a local jurisdiction will only take place after a formal request from the local government, evidence exists that the local government cannot address the issue, or the Governor determines additional resources are needed.

MML requests one additional amendment that is technical in nature. There are some municipalities that do not technically have a mayor, but someone else who is the chief executive officer. Like §14-101(F)(3) that specifies an instance where there is no county executive, MML requests adding a (4) that is a similar statement for municipalities without a mayor.

§14-101

(F)(4) For a municipality that does not have a mayor, the burgess, the chairperson or president of the municipal governing body, or other chief executive officer of the municipality.

With these amendments MML respectfully requests a favorable report for HB 648.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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