



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 18, 2020

Committee: House Judiciary

Bill: HB 607 – Public Safety – Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 607. This bill establishes the Crisis Intervention Team Center of Excellence in the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to provide technical support to local governments, law enforcement, public safety agencies, behavioral health agencies, and crisis service providers and to develop and implement a crisis intervention model program.

Over ninety municipalities currently have law enforcement agencies, and our municipal officers appreciate any additional assistance and training they receive as they carry out their duties. Increasingly, our law enforcement officials are interacting with members of the public who suffer from a mental illness. The Center created by this legislation would serve to direct individuals away from the criminal justice system and provide access to alternative services at the point where an individual may have an encounter with local law enforcement.

For these reasons, the League supports HB 607 and respectfully requests that the committee report the bill favorably.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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