



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

TESTIMONY

February 12, 2020

Committee: House Ways & Means

Bill: HB 223 – End Ineffective Business Subsidies Act of 2020

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes HB 223 which would sunset or prohibit the expansion or issuance of tax credits under several different economic development tools, including Enterprise Zones, Maryland biotechnology tax credits, One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit Program, and Opportunity Zones.

As the economy continues to improve and municipalities are looking to fill the empty spaces on their Main Streets, commercial, and industrial areas, many of our cities and towns look to the tax credit and business programs listed in this legislation. While the League certainly understands the need to evaluate these programs to ensure that they are working as designed and that the monies that flow into these programs are providing the economic benefits they were intended to provide, the concern is that if these programs are allowed to sunset, they may never return.

The League would suggest that there are other pieces of legislation such as HB 765 that have been introduced that would not eliminate these programs, but would instead study them for improvements that may need to be made to make these and other programs more effective. Therefore, MML respectfully requests that this Committee provide HB 223 with an unfavorable report and instead further study these programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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