



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

TESTIMONY

February 28, 2020

**Committee:** House Ways and Means

**Bill:** HB 1455 – Economic Development – Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 1455. This bill establishes the Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to encourage the establishment and expansion of makerspaces throughout the State. The bill authorizes the Corporation to award financial assistance to local governments, designees of local governments, and nonprofit entities for the establishment of makerspaces in the State.

As our municipalities interface with schools and non-profit organizations to expand on existing technological and educational opportunities in their jurisdictions, many are exploring the establishment of makerspaces within their communities. These venues allow both young and old residents to interact with one another and learn new skills. This also provides an opportunity for children and young adults to experience alternative entertainment options before and after school.

The League therefore respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 1455 with a favorable report.

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