



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

January 31, 2023

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

Bill: HB 79 - Housing and Community Development - Whole-Home Repairs Act of 2023

Position: Support with Amendment

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 79 which helps local governments improve housing security for our residents with the help of a new fund through the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Whole-Home Repairs Fund is designed to aid residential habitability and increase workforce development. While many municipalities don't have housing departments or housing repairs programs, those that do will have the opportunity to apply for funds to help residents improve their homes and generate new jobs. This is a laudable goal and MML appreciates the Sponsors' intent.

However, the current draft limits funding to one municipality per county. This seems like an unnecessary and unfair restriction, especially for a county like Prince George's which has 27 municipalities and significant housing shortages. The Sponsor has been amenable to removing this section, which MML appreciates.

As such, the League respectfully requests that this committee adopt the Sponsors' amendments and provide HB 79 with a favorable report.

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