



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

TESTIMONY

March 8, 2023

Committee: Environment & Transportation

Bill: HB 1209 – Environment – Flood Control – Flood Risk Assessment and Model Ordinance (Climate Ready Floodplain Act of 2023)

Position: ___ Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes HB 1209, which is well-intentioned but creates significant challenges as drafted. This measure requires state and local governments to use the latest available data and modeling techniques to assess flood risks in their jurisdictions, and incorporate this information into their land use planning and zoning decisions. This bill also requires local governments to adopt a model floodplain management regulation.

These requirements interfere with local zoning authority, which City and Town Planning and Zoning departments have historically exercised to oversee growth and development within their municipal limits. This authority is granted in part because local government officials are closest to their communities and are most familiar with the needs of their residents. These departments take their responsibility seriously, with regular and intensive comprehensive zoning analysis and planning on a ten-year cycle with a five-year interim “check-up”. Not only would this new requirement contradict local zoning authority, but requiring cities and towns to comply with the “latest available data” could present financial and logistical challenges, especially for our smaller members.

Our local leaders recognize that severe weather events have caused significant flooding around the State in recent years. However, these new proposals could be onerous and prohibitively expensive to comply with. For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 1209 with an unfavorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns	Chief Executive Officer
Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.	Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs
Bill Jorch	Director, Public Policy
Justin Fiore	Manager, Government Relations

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-268-5514 | 800-492-7121 | FAX: 410-268-7004 | www.mdmunicipal.org