



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

# TESTIMONY

March 6, 2024

**Committee:** House Appropriations

**Bill:** HB 263 - State Highway Administration - Sidewalks and Bicycle Pathways - Maintenance and Repair

**Position:** Favorable

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 263, which shifts responsibility for sidewalk maintenance and repair along state highways from local governments to the State Highway Administration (SHA). MML also supports the amendment to be offered by the bill sponsor that will clarify responsibility for snow and ice removal on those same sidewalks.

Most, if not all, municipalities in the State have a state highway running through them, in many cases as their main street. The provisions of the bill that task SHA with routine maintenance and acute repair of sidewalks along SHA roads would result in a large cost savings for municipal governments. However, the bill also provides balance in that time-sensitive snow and ice removal must be remedied by local governments.

Funding of the initial construction of a sidewalk along a state highway can fall to SHA, the local government in which the state highway resides, the developer of a property that abuts a state highway, or a combination of these entities depending on the specific circumstances. However, once the sidewalk construction is complete, the ongoing maintenance and repairs are assigned to the local government in which the sidewalk exists.

The provisions of HB 263 provide significant cost savings to local governments by relieving them of the general maintenance and repair costs for sidewalks along SHA roads. For this reason, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 263 with a favorable report.

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