



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

TESTIMONY

February 21, 2024

Committee: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Bill: SB 779 - Real Property – Taxation of Vacant Property, Certification of Company Representatives, and Short-Term Rentals

Position: Support with Amendments

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports Senate Bill 779, with amendment.

In addition to authorizing the City of Baltimore and all 23 counties to set a special property tax rate for improved residential properties that were cited as vacant and unfit for habitation, SB 779 also establishes a new regulatory authority for “short-term rentals” to ensure these properties are not burdening public infrastructure or contributing to Maryland’s housing crisis.

Housing availability and affordability is a critical issue, but tools available to local governments are limited. This bill can provide valuable vehicles for local governments to address the housing supply in our communities.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests an amendment to extend the short-term rental authority to municipalities in addition to Baltimore City and all 23 counties. With that amendment, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide Senate Bill 779 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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