



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

TESTIMONY

February 21, 2024

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Bill: SB 774 - Public Safety - Maryland Entertainment District Security Grant Program

Position: Favorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 774, which will assist municipal governments more effectively address security concerns in certain areas that tend to have high call volumes of complaints.

The bill creates a program designed to assist local governments, among other partners, meet security needs in entertainment districts as defined in the bill. Certain areas of a city that have establishments serving alcohol and hosting live music often bring large numbers of people together, in many cases on foot. The program's grant funding to increase security features in these areas that often produce higher call volumes of complaints is enticing as a way to bolster public safety.

Municipalities are often the economic and cultural hubs of their regions and as a result, there are clusters of establishments serving alcohol or host live music. While the eligibility criteria for grants is not yet cemented, based on the broad parameters it appears that many municipal governments could qualify. Public safety resources are already stretched thin and this new program could provide needed additional funding for specific areas.

The provisions of SB 744 should assist municipal governments curb nuisance behavior through safety improvements made possible by grants funded through this program. For this reason, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide Senate Bill 744 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns

Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.

Bill Jorch

Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer

Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

Director, Public Policy & Research

Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs