



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

## TESTIMONY

March 7, 2024

**Committee:** Senate Judicial Proceedings

**Bill:** SB 1031 – Civil Actions - Lead Poisoning - Liability and Statute of Limitations  
(Maryland Lead Poisoning Compensation Act)

**Position:** Unfavorable

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League opposes Senate Bill 1031, which removes the statute of limitations for compensatory and noneconomic damages for lead poisoning caused by lead-based paint. It also establishes strict liability for compensatory and noneconomic damages for property owners, and removes limitations on noneconomic damages for these claims.

While we appreciate the intent to ensure fair compensation for victims of lead poisoning, this proposal would result in increased costs for local governments. Municipalities rarely own or manage residential properties, but all members own and maintain many other types of affected buildings (recreation centers, City Halls, etc.).

Removing the statute of limitations and noneconomic damages caps would result in increased claims and increased insurance premiums for local governments. Any increase in insurance premiums and/or litigation costs could decrease services provided for residents.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 1031.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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