



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

TESTIMONY

March 26, 2025

Committee: House Appropriations Committee

Bill: SB 26 - Labor and Employment - Occupational Safety and Health - Revisions (Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act)

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) respectfully supports Senate Bill 26, with amendment. The bill addresses several aspects of workplace safety, something municipal governments take very seriously. The amendments adopted by the Senate addressed almost all MML's concerns, however one outstanding issue remains. As such the League altered our position to favorable with amendment. Our formal request is that this committee conform SB 26 to include all amendments in HB 176 as passed by the House of Delegates, which resolved all issues MML had with the bill.

The largest remaining issue from the League's perspective is the heightened penalties for public officials on **page 15, lines 25-31 and page 16, lines 1-3, which we request be struck from the bill.** While it is a serious problem to knowingly make a false representation about the safety aspects of a workplace, a practice that is already prohibited with penalties for non-compliance, the heightened penalty provisions for public officials are harsh and unnecessary.

We appreciate the work of the bill sponsors in both chambers and the members of the committees of jurisdiction for their work with MML on amendments to this bill. For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 26, with the amendment to conform the bill to mirror HB 176. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at billj@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.