



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

TESTIMONY

March 25, 2025

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: HB 176 - Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act

Position: Informational

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) respectfully submits informational testimony on House Bill 176, which addresses several aspects of workplace safety, something municipal governments take very seriously. The amendments adopted by the House of Delegates addressed all MML's concerns and as such the League formally dropped our opposition to the bill. Our formal request is that this committee retain all amendments in HB 176.

The most impactful amendments to municipal governments include the following:

1. **Removing the definition of "fieldwork location" on page 6, lines 25-30, and removing references to "fieldwork locations" throughout the bill.**
 - a. Municipal governments have employees working at various off-site premises that would fall under the definition of "fieldwork location," such as parks and recreation, refuse collection, public safety, and code enforcement. These locations are often difficult to monitor and the nature of the location can be impacted by factors outside the government's control.
2. **Altering the requirement for municipal governments to provide certain documents to employees via email to instead make them available, on page 10, lines 20-21 and page 16, lines 32-33.**
 - a. There are several municipalities that do not have employer-issued email addresses for all employees which would make compliance difficult. In addition, employees are familiar with finding information on workplace safety posted in highly visible locations in the workplace as opposed to via email.
3. **Deleting the requirement of municipal governments to report on the number and nature of workplace injuries and deaths on page 18, line 12-20.**
 - a. While important, these are redundant to requirements already in place with Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) and could lead to confusion or noncompliance.
4. **Removing the heightened penalties for public officials on page 19, lines 1-10.**
 - a. 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.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully submits informational testimony and requests this committee keep all amendments in House Bill 176. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at billj@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.