



## TESTIMONY

**COMMITTEE:** House Judiciary

**DATE:** February 10, 2026

**POSITION:** Favorable

**BILL:** HB 593

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 593.

HB 593 expands the definition of critical infrastructure to include systems and assets, both physical or virtual, that are vital to a municipality's operations. The incapacity or destruction of such important systems would have a harmful effect on both the public and economic security of that municipality. The bill also creates stronger penalties by making it a felony to intentionally impair or destroy critical infrastructure or a public safety answering point. When convicted, violators will face substantial penalties including imprisonment and a significant fine. This ensures that those who threaten municipal essential systems are held accountable.

The State of Maryland has been hit by bad actors before with a memorable ransomware attack on the Maryland Department of Transportation in 2025. Anna Arundel County had a cyber incident in 2025 which affected their government operations and network while Baltimore City's ransomware attack in 2019 affected the city's most critical systems. Municipalities face an elevated risk of disruption to critical systems due to limited staffing capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to cyberattacks. Being able to charge and prosecute individuals who intentionally seek to harm municipalities and the communities they serve allows municipalities to better protect critical services and systems while maintaining public trust.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 593 a favorable report.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

Iris Ibegbulem: Manager, Advocacy and Public Policy, [irisi@mdmunicipal.org](mailto:irisi@mdmunicipal.org)

*MML represents 161 local governments and about 2 million Maryland residents.*