



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 3, 2020

Committee: House Economic Matters

Bill: HB 767 - Workers' Compensation - Fees for Legal Services

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes HB 767 which allows for the Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) to order a payment of attorney's fees of up to \$2,000 by an employer or its insurer to a claimant in certain workers compensation claims.

Historically, MML has opposed shifting attorney's fees on government defendants in actions taken against them, and this is no exception. One main concern is the lack of criteria on which the WCC has to determine who will pay the legal fees. The fiscal note reflects our objection that this cost will likely fall on the employer or its insurance company. This incentive of possible legal costs being paid by a separate entity may result in more claimants bring claims before the WCC. Any increase in costs directly to a local government or its insurer may result in the need for increased property taxes or reduced services.

For these reasons we therefore respectfully request that the committee report HB 767 unfavorably.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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