



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

T E S T I M O N Y

February 25, 2020

Committee: Senate Finance

Bill: SB 877 - Underground Facilities Damage Prevention - Revision

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports SB 877 which alters various aspects of underground facilities damage prevention, several of which impact municipalities.

Although not often grouped together with entities like gas and electric utilities, municipalities are owners of underground facilities; primarily water, sewer, and stormwater systems. As owners, protecting these assets during an excavation is critically important.

Two points in particular will improve the protection of all underground facilities. First, starting in 2021 all newly installed or completely replaced facilities must be locatable or detectable. This low-cost procedure will increase the ease of which it is to find and mark underground facilities prior to excavation. Second, the time to respond to an emergency notification is reduced to three hours. In an emergency situation time is critical and municipal public works officials understand the importance of a quick response whether their facility is the cause of the issue or potentially endangered by the emergency.

Adding these additional requirements in order to protect every entity's underground facilities is of utmost importance and a real safety issue. We therefore respectfully request that the committee report SB 877 favorably.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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