



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

TESTIMONY

March 12, 2020

Committee: Senate Finance

Bill: SB 883 - Business Regulation - Security Systems - Battery-Charged Fences

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes Senate Bill 883 which places restrictions on the actions a local government can take as it pertains to the installation of certain battery charged fences that emit a shock when touched.

The League has regularly opposed preemption of local authority through state mandates and portions of this bill include such preemptions. Specifically, the bill prevents a local government from requiring a person to obtain any permit outside an alarm system permit in the installation of a battery charged fence. A local government also may not impose any operational or installation requirements on a battery charged fence.

Planning and permitting is a strong local authority here in Maryland and this bill would make a dramatic statewide exception for one type of structure. This structure has visual and sightline impact potentially near public rights-of-way and emits an electrical shock. This type of structure needs local permitting beyond just an alarm system permit.

MML opposes the bill on the grounds that it limits municipal authority to govern its business, particularly the permitting of a new structure. For this reason, the Maryland Municipal League opposes SB 883 and respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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