



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 4, 2020

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Bill: HB 125 – Board of Public Works – Land Acquisition - Requirements

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 125. This legislation prohibits the Board of Public Works (BPW) from approving the acquisition of specified real property worth at least \$500,000 unless (1) BPW provides the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) with specified information and (2) in some circumstances, a study is done regarding the ongoing fiscal effect of the acquisition on the State. The bill does not apply to specified acquisitions of (1) property for land preservation and conservation purposes, primarily by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); (2) property at the Port of Baltimore or Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport; or (3) federally owned military property.

Maryland's cities and towns strive to preserve open spaces as much as possible given the dense urban nature of most of our municipalities. There have been instances in the past where land acquired using Program Open Space or Community Parks and Playgrounds monies has been offered for sale by the State to private developers against the wishes of a local jurisdiction. This legislation would provide more oversight over the sale of certain properties so that a local jurisdiction could get involved if the situation warranted such action.

For these reasons, the League supports HB 125 and respectfully requests that the committee report the bill favorably.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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