



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

TESTIMONY

February 20, 2020

**Committee:** Senate Budget & Taxation  
House Ways & Means

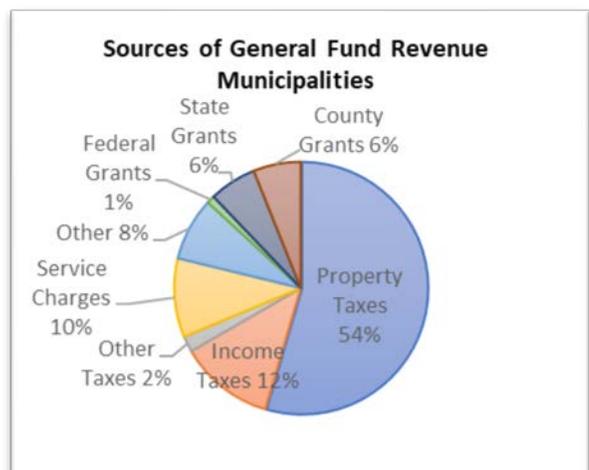
**Bill:** SB 4 – Gaming – Sports Betting – Implementation  
SB 58 – Gaming – Sports Betting – Implementation  
SB 325 – Constitutional Amendment – Gaming – Expansion  
HB 605 – Constitutional Amendment – Gaming - Expansion  
HB 225 – Sports Wagering – Implementation  
HB 169 – Expansion of Commercial Gaming – Referendum – Sports wagering

**Position:** Informational

**Reason for Position:**

For the 2020 legislative session, the Maryland Municipal League adopted a Strategic Initiative to explore and support the creation of new municipal sources of revenue.

As it stands, municipalities are overdependent on property taxes to provide essential services for their residents. Over half of municipal general fund revenues are derived from property taxes, and for some, property taxes account for over 65% of total revenues. Local jurisdictions have little control over the other major sources of revenue, leaving municipalities with few options when fiscal challenges arise. Maryland's cities and towns need alternative revenue sources to support new and existing programs that their residents look for them to provide.



**With regard to future sports betting revenues, the League would like build on the model adopted by this legislature when establishing the Video Lottery Terminal**

**Fund (VLT) distribution formula**, which shares 5.5% of the revenue generated through local impact grants. However, as gambling becomes a more online practice, we would like to see that money reach all areas of the State as well.

As your partners in governance, Maryland's cities and towns ask that the legislature continue to share a portion of new revenue sources with the localities, including any additional revenues attributed to sports betting.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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