



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 16, 2021

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

Bill: HB 877 - Workgroup on Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Commercial Spaces

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports HB 877 and its mission to address vacant commercial properties through a stakeholder workgroup.

Vacant properties generally, and vacant commercial buildings specifically, are a significant problem in municipalities. Many of these properties fall into vacancy as a result of foreclosure. Not only do these vacant properties put a strain on municipal revenue but they also represent untapped potential in their reuse. As a proposed member of this workgroup, the municipal representative would be able to provide a unique perspective as to how the reuse of vacant commercial spaces to increase housing opportunities would benefit the community and fit into the housing element of municipal comprehensive master plans.

MML has been involved in many discussions, both formal and informal, that focus on addressing the problem of vacant properties and look forward to continuing this conversation. For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League supports HB 877 and respectfully requests a favorable committee report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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