



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

February 9, 2021

**Committee:** Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

**Bill:** SB 367 – Housing and Community Development – Neighborhood Revitalization Programs – Application Requirements

**Position:** Oppose

### Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League oppose SB 367, which would require State legislative delegation approval on applications to DHCD for the Community Legacy, Neighborhood Business Works, and the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative programs.

MML is concerned that this requirement could slow or stall local projects that are much needed. Cities and towns use the Community Legacy programs quite extensively each year for projects such as streetscape and walkway improvements, repairs to historic sites, museum restorations, and Façade improvements. Seventy-nine projects in 22 jurisdictions were supported by this program alone in 2019 (for a total of \$8 million).

All applications to these programs are already evaluated based on need, community conditions, project/program scope, proposed timeline, budget, and organizational capacity. We do not believe that adding a legislative veto adds to the evaluation process. Instead, we fear this could open the door for political retribution in jurisdictions where local governments and their delegations do not see eye-to-eye.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League oppose SB 367 and respectfully requests and unfavorable report.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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