



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

TESTIMONY

March 30, 2021

Committee: House Ways and Means Committee

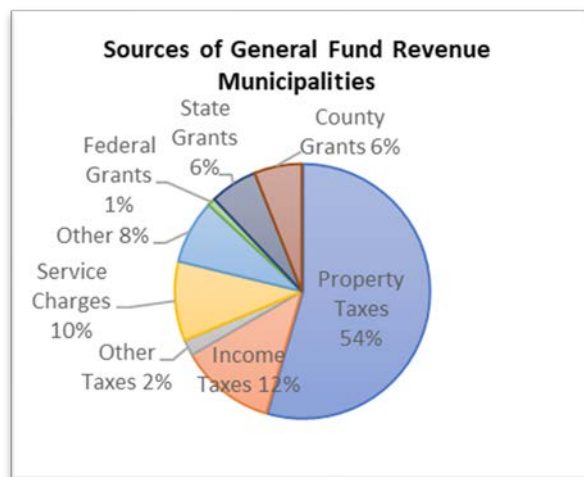
Bill: SB 841 – Property Tax – Solar Energy Systems

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League strongly opposes SB 841, which as amended would authorize a local government to exempt a community solar energy generating system installed on the rooftop of a structure from the county or municipal personal property tax and prohibit the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) from considering the value of income attributable to the installation of a community solar energy generating system when determining a personal property assessment.

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 are not in a position to exempt an emerging industry from personal property tax.**



MML would withdraw its opposition and support the bill if the committee strikes §8-105 (a)(4).

Therefore, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 841 with an unfavorable report or amend it to allow for these solar energy generating systems to be considered as income for tax purposes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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