



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

February 9, 2022

**Committee:** Senate Budget & Taxation

**Bill:** \_\_\_\_\_ SB 348 – Conservation Finance Act

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 348, which creates several new funding sources for municipal governments to help us prepare our constituents, especially those in historically disadvantaged communities, prepare for climate change.

“Pay for success” contracts, the subaccount within the Water Quality Fund, and the Drinking Loan Fund are all helpful to municipalities, but the Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy Advisory Commission (GBIPAC) is the most impactful. This Commission will help us facilitate and accelerate the implementation of green and blue infrastructure projects throughout the State in areas where municipalities sometimes struggle due to lack of resources: carbon sequestration, stream and wetland restoration, forest restoration, and nutrient and sediment load reduction, for example. The inclusion of local government representatives on the GBIPAC is further evidence of a balanced and pragmatic approach.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 348 with a favorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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