



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

January 25, 2022

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

**Bill:** \_\_\_\_\_ SB 56 Program Open Space - Local Plans and Programs - General Assembly Approval

**Position:** Oppose

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League respectfully opposes SB 56, which would require State legislative approval on local government Program Open Space applications to the Department of Planning.

MML is concerned that this requirement could slow or stall local projects that engage residents, provide health and recreational benefits, and enhance the quality of life in our communities. Cities and towns use Program Open Space funds quite extensively each year for the funding and construction of and renovations or upgrades to well-loved local, urban, and neighborhood parks and playgrounds. All applications to these programs are already evaluated based on need, community conditions, project/program scope, proposed timeline, budget, and environmental impact. 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 opposes SB 56 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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