



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

March 30, 2022

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

**Bill:** HB 156 Local Governments – Urban Agricultural Incentive Zones – Authorization

**Position:** Support with Amendments

**Reason for Position:**

House Bill 156 originally allowed local governments to establish procedures for farmers to apply for “Urban Agricultural Incentive Zone” designations and authorized 100% of the sales and use tax revenue from the subsequent sale of farm products to go to local governments. However, this funding mechanism was amended out in the bill’s chamber of origin.

The Maryland Municipal League appreciates the authority this bill grants to local governments to establish these zoning designations. However, MML feels strongly that the sales and use tax funding mechanism should be included in this proposal. Municipalities in Maryland are significantly limited in the ways in which they can generate funding for necessary constituent services. This bill’s original proposal was a fair and reasonable opportunity for generating direct municipal revenue.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests the sales and use tax mechanism be amended back in, and would respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 156.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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