



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

March 30, 2022

**Committee:** Senate Finance

**Bill:** HB 794 – Public Health – Opioid Restitution Fund Advisory Council

**Position:** Support with amendment

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 794 with amendment. The bill creates an Opioid Restitution Fund Advisory Council tasked with providing recommendations on how money from the fund should be allocated with the State.

MML, the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) worked on the details of the framework known as the State-Subdivision Agreement which details the allocation of funds from the recently agreed upon settlement with a major opioid manufacturer and several distributors. The framework will allow for the State and local governments to use these funds for specific permitted uses with the primary objectives of opioid remediation and prevention and indicates a strong acknowledgment of the important role local governments play in working to fight this epidemic.

The involvement of local governments and the high percentage of funds allocated to them as part of this settlement agreement indicates a strong acknowledgment of the important role local governments play in working to fight this epidemic. As more settlements are agreed to, and new money is available through the Opioid Restitution Fund, MML wants to ensure that municipal governments are represented as part of this Council.

The MML suggested amendment is as follows:

On page 3, line 18 of the bill as passed out of the House, before (B) add:

(9) ONE INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.

As such, the League respectfully requests that this committee issue a favorable report on HB 794 with this important amendment.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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