



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 10, 2022

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Bill: _____ SB 397 - Public Safety – Local Law Enforcement Coordination Council and Coordinator and State Aid for Police Protection Fund

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 397, which establishes a Local Law Enforcement Coordination Council and increases the funding to qualifying municipalities for police protection.

The Local Law Enforcement Coordination Council, which may include several municipal police chiefs, and its Coordinator are designed to facilitate working relationships among municipal and county law enforcement agencies. This is already occurring to some degree, but a formalized council and coordinator tasked with sharing resources, reducing redundancies, developing model practices, and streamlining training could significantly improve public safety services and reduce costs.

The most tangible aspect of Sb 397 is the increase in funding of \$975 per officer to qualifying municipalities for police protection. There are about 1820 municipal officers in the State, so this bill could provide as much as \$1.775 million in additional funding for municipal police protection. This additional State aid would significantly subsidize critical operation expenses within municipal police agencies.

For these reasons the League respectfully requests that this committee provide Senate Bill 397 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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