



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 8, 2022

Committee: House Ways and Means

Bill: HB 313 - Election Law - Recall Elections

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes House Bill 313, which establishes a list of public officials that would be subject to a recall election, which includes mayors, city councilmembers, and city comptrollers and creates a uniform recall process.

The State has largely authorized municipal governments to operate their elections in a manner that allows for the process to fit the wants and needs of each individual community. As a result, municipalities have different structures of government, election dates, and term lengths.

Municipalities in Maryland also already have the authority to create and implement recall provisions in their charter, and about 20% have exercised this authority. Not surprisingly, recall provisions in Maryland's municipalities vary by jurisdiction, with differences in the percentage of signatories needed on the petition to the timing of the special election. Clearly, some municipalities have deemed it appropriate to have a recall process in place while others have not. This bill usurps that local decision making authority and mandates a one-size-fits-all framework for the recall of certain municipal officials.

For these reasons the League respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 313 with an unfavorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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