



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

February 22, 2022

**Committee:** House Appropriations

**Bill:** HB 1086 - Opioid Restitution Fund - Appropriation of Settlement Funds

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 1086 which directs the State to allocate funds from the National Opioid Settlement to local governments per the State-Subdivision Agreement.

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 for months with the end result being a balanced document. 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.

Specifically, the Agreement allocates funds to municipalities in two different ways. For the 35 municipalities that either brought litigation against the defendant companies or met a certain population threshold set in the National Opioid Settlement, they will receive some funds directly while the remainder will be disbursed by the State after a plan is submitted detailing expected uses of the funds. The other 122 municipalities, that either chose not to file suit or have a smaller population can submit applications to a State created competitive grant fund for worthy projects or services with similar objectives.

The carefully crafted framework to allocate Settlement funds referenced in this bill allows for all municipalities to have access to these funds to continue the ongoing efforts to curb the opioid epidemic. As such, the League respectfully requests that this committee issue a favorable report on HB 1086.

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