



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

TESTIMONY

March 29, 2023

Committee: House Appropriations

Bill: SB 580 - Public Safety - Officer and Community Wellness Training Grant Fund

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 580, which will significantly defray costs to municipal police agencies as they seek to provide critical mental health care to their officers. Specifically, the bill provides grant opportunities to municipal police agencies for the specific purpose of providing mental health and stress management training for their officers.

The stress on law enforcement officers can be incredibly high and resulting mental health problems are real. The grant program established in this bill is clear recognition that officers need help managing the toll that their responsibilities take on their wellbeing. Training on ways to improve mental health and reduce stress is critical to most workers but especially in the first responder field. The grant funding in the bill will directly increase the opportunities for our municipal police officers to invest in their own mental wellness.

On behalf of the 88 municipal police departments and over 1,800 municipal police officers, MML supports SB 580 and requests a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns	Chief Executive Officer
Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.	Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs
Bill Jorch	Director, Public Policy
Justin Fiore	Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-268-5514 | 800-492-7121 | FAX: 410-268-7004 | www.mdmunicipal.org