



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

TESTIMONY

March 28, 2023

**Committee:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**Bill:** HB 459 - Public Utilities - Street Lighting Equipment - Acquisitions and Reporting (County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act)

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 459, which would more clearly define the process for municipalities to acquire streetlights in their jurisdiction from a public utility company and likely lead to more municipalities operating their own streetlights.

Since legislation was first enacted in 2007 to permit local governments to purchase street lighting equipment from private entities, discussions between municipalities and utility companies have proved fruitless in finding agreement on the fair market value of street lighting equipment. Since then, few municipalities have successfully negotiated the acquisition of streetlights in their jurisdiction. The League hopes that the process for acquiring street light equipment articulated in this bill will provide an equitable means of breaking the stalemate that has persisted in this area and lead to a scenario where municipalities that wish to own and operate their own.

As HB 459 will help municipalities address these ongoing issues, the Maryland Municipal League supports this bill and asks this committee to provide the bill with a favorable report.

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