



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

# TESTIMONY

March 9, 2023

**Committee:** House Environment & Transportation

**Bill:** HB 900 - Occupational Safety and Health - Public Buildings - Indoor Air Quality

**Position:** Opposed

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League opposes House Bill 900, which aims to establish indoor air quality standards for public buildings in Maryland. While we appreciate the intent, this measure would be unduly burdensome for Maryland's municipalities.

This measure would require public buildings to meet certain indoor air quality standards, which may require costly upgrades to HVAC systems, building materials, and other components of public buildings. Municipalities may struggle to fund these upgrades, particularly with limited resources. Furthermore, compliance with the Department of Labor's new guidelines required under this bill may require additional staff time and resources, which could be a strain on already overburdened municipal budgets.

This measure also places significant administrative burdens on municipal governments. The proposed requirements for employers (which includes municipalities) include: annual certifications; annual inspections of HVAC, building envelopes and enclosures; annual inspections of all building systems including carbon dioxide output, temperature, and humidity; certify that windows, doors, vents, stacks, and other natural ventilation portals are in good condition; and record and respond to employee complaints regarding signs of building-related illness. While municipal employers agree that air quality is important and the health and safety of our employees is paramount, these requirements are overly proscriptive, onerous, and costly.

Overall, while the aim of the bill to improve indoor air quality in public buildings is laudable, the potential financial and administrative concerns will pose challenges for our members. As

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-268-5514 | 800-492-7121 | FAX: 410-268-7004 | [www.mdmunicipal.org](http://www.mdmunicipal.org)

such, MML respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 900 with an unfavorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Theresa Kuhns

Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.

Bill Jorch

Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer

Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

Director, Public Policy

Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs