



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 21, 2023

Committee: Senate Finance

Bill: SB 377 – Workers' Compensation - Benefits - Offset and Hearing Loss

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes Senate Bill 377, which significantly expands workers' compensation claims for hearing loss by removing “offsets” for such claims.

Under current law, if a work-related disability pension payment by an employer combined with a workers' compensation claim for that same disability amounts to more than what that employee would make if they were still working, the workers' compensation claim becomes secondary, and the remaining amount is “offset.” “Offsets” were designed to ensure employees receiving fair compensation while preventing employer premiums from exorbitant increases. This bill proposes removing “offsets,” which will have a significant impact on workers' compensation premiums for public sector employers like municipal governments.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests an unfavorable report on SB 377.

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