



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 23, 2023

Committee: Senate Finance

Bill: SB 355 - Occupational Safety and Health - Public Buildings - Indoor Air Quality

Position: Opposed

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes Senate Bill 355, 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

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such, MML respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 355 with an unfavorable report.

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