



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

TESTIMONY

March 7, 2023

Committee: House Judiciary

Bill: HB 1044 - Criminal Procedure - Crime Solvers Reward Fund - Establishment

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 1044 as it would assist municipal police agencies solve certain crimes by incentivizing tips from the public. Specifically, the bill would supply grants to local law enforcement agencies to then offer reward money to civilians who provide credible information on a murder or attempted murder case involving a firearm.

Many municipal police departments already operate a tip line in some form today where members of the public can submit information on a crime. However, the potential grant money in this bill could help bolster those existing programs while encouraging other agencies to start their own by offering monetary incentives to civilians in exchange for valuable information on certain crimes. The bill includes needed safeguards to ensure the grant money goes to individuals who provide credible information on only certain types of crimes. In today's world of increasing costs to operate a police department, this type of grant could prove to be helpful.

This bill provides some potential cost savings to local agencies to offer a tip line service. As such, MML respectfully requests that this committee provide a favorable report on House Bill 1044.

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