



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

TESTIMONY

March 7, 2024

Committee: House Economic Matters Committee

Bill: HB 1435 – Renewable Energy – Net Energy Metering Aggregation, Solar Renewable Energy Credits, and Taxes on Solar Energy Generating Systems (Brighter Tomorrow Act)

Position: Support with Amendment

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 1435 with amendments, which seeks to help Maryland reach its solar goals, in part, through a strategic give-and-take of local revenues.

MML generally applauds the approach taken by the sponsor. We understand the balance of foregoing some property tax revenues on projects that are cited in harder to build but community-favorable locations in return for a better deal on larger, ground-mounted projects. However, we would need some amendments to achieve this balance.

1. Include municipalities in the PILOT program in 7-522.
2. Make \$2,500 per megawatt the floor for PILOT deals, authorizing local jurisdictions to strike a better deal to achieve proper compensation.
3. Like the PILOT, make other property tax exemptions prospective.
4. Restructure the optional assessment reduction for parking facilities in 7-250 to property tax credits so that a county reduction does not impact a municipalities revenue structure.

We believe these amendments are necessary to avoid a potentially determinantal loss of necessary revenues that cities and towns use to provide essential public services.

For these reasons the League respectfully requests that this committee provide House Bill 1435 with a favorable report with amendments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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