



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

TESTIMONY

February 15, 2024

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Bill: SB 505 - Public Utilities - Transportation Network Service - Assessment Cap Increase

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports Senate Bill 505, with amendment, which increases the assessment cap on fees that local governments can levy on rides provided by transportation network companies (TNC) such as Uber and Lyft. The MML amendment would allow municipalities that are currently prohibited from levying the fee on rides that originate in their jurisdiction to do so.

Generally, MML supports the concept of raising the assessment cap that a local government may impose on a TNC ride, from \$.25 to \$.50. This cap has remained the same for almost a decade yet costs to maintain the roadways and provide transportation services have drastically increased.

The law that was passed in 2015 to regulate TNCs included a provision that precluded municipalities that resided in a county that imposed a fee on TNCs by July 1, 2016 from imposing a fee. In practice, this is the case only in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Municipalities are responsible for roadway maintenance on the roads under their jurisdiction, but in those two counties the municipalities are not being compensated for the degradation of those roadways by TNC vehicles.

MML seeks an amendment to allow municipalities in these two counties to assess a fee on TNC rides originating in their jurisdiction, ideally without impacting the revenue to the county. This can be done by removing the priority of the county to impose a fee on a ride originating in a municipality and authorizing the municipality and county to stack their fees in those two counties.

The provisions of SB 505 are generally supported by MML, but the benefits should be applied to all municipalities. For this reason, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide Senate Bill 505 with a favorable report, with the above amendments.



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns

Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.

Bill Jorch

Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer

Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

Director, Public Policy & Research

Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs