



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

## TESTIMONY

March 5, 2024

**Committee:** Senate Finance

**Bill:** SB 844 – Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease Presumptions - Hypertension

**Position:** Unfavorable

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League respectfully opposes Senate Bill 844, which expands an existing occupational disease presumption for hypertension in firefighters and similar occupations. This expansion that could have meaningful impacts for local governments.

Under current law, to qualify for the occupational disease presumption, hypertension must result in partial or total disability or death. This bill removes that requirement: disablement or death would no longer be necessary, which would allow more covered employees to file claims, impacting local governments' expenditures. Given that nearly half of all Americans have hypertension, according to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of claimants could increase significantly.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 844.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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