



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

# TESTIMONY

January 28, 2025

**Committee:** House Appropriations Committee

**Bill:** HB 205 – Employment Standards – Firefighters – Payment of Wages and Payroll Information

**Position:** Unfavorable

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League opposes House Bill 205, which would require overtime pay for paid firefighters in excess of 168 hours over a 28-day period, more payroll information, and codify a process for grievances.

While there are relatively few municipalities that employ firefighters – vs. utilizing a volunteer force – these benefits are traditionally collectively bargained alongside other benefits. Passage of HB 205 would likely reopen those negotiations. Further, there could be additional costs related to the payment of overtime or hiring more employees. Together, and potentially in concert with other legislation being considered this year, this bill may make it more difficult for the remaining paid fire departments to continue.

For these reasons the League respectfully requests the committee provide House Bill 205 with an unfavorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Theresa Kuhns  
Bill Jorch

Chief Executive Officer  
Director, Public Policy & Research