



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

TESTIMONY

February 25, 2025

Committee: House Appropriations Committee

Bill: HB 865 – Catastrophic Event Account – Transfer of Funds – State Disaster Recovery Fund

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 865, which simply allows the Catastrophic Event Account to support the State Disaster Recovery Fund if the Fund's balance is depleted or deemed inadequate to provide local relief for a natural disaster or catastrophic situation.

The League strongly supported the creation of the State Disaster Recovery Fund in 2023, which is designed to provide swift assistance in areas faced with a significant local disaster that does not merit federal designation. The City of Annapolis was faced with such a scenario in the aftermath of the 2021 tornado. HB 865 would ensure there is a pathway to make monies available to any jurisdiction should disaster strike and the existing \$10 million in the Fund be depleted.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a *favorable* report on House Bill 865. For more information, please contact Justin Fiore, Deputy Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs, at justinf@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 161 local governments members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions for our communities, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.