



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

TESTIMONY

January 29, 2025

Committee: Senate Budget & Taxation

Bill: SB 188 - Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program and Fund - Alterations

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) respectfully supports Senate Bill 188, which aims to make our communities safer and healthier through changes to the Community Health and Safety Works Grant Program.

The goal of the Program is the improvement of Main Street communities and other community development nonprofit organizations. Grants can be used for surveillance tools like streetlights and cameras; pedestrian and traffic calming devices; landscaping and restaurant expansion; and other improvements that improve public spaces and remove blight. Under current law, local governments are limited to only facility and community investment projects (between \$20,000 and \$50,000 per project application) and business district and neighborhood security projects (between \$75,000 and \$150,000 per project application). Under the bill, local governments are eligible applicants for any project type and without a limit on grant awards per application. Expanding our access to these targeted funds can help local governments continue to strengthen our communities, increasing both safety and economic development.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 188. For more information, please contact Angelica Bailey Thupari, Director of Advocacy & Public Affairs, at angelicab@mdmunicipal.org or (443) 756-0071. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 160 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.