



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

TESTIMONY

February 20, 2025

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Bill: SB 554 – Public Information Act - Frivolous, Vexatious, or Abusive Requests - Remedies

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports SB 554, which will provide the PIACB with the authority to grant relief to jurisdictions who receive abusive PIA requests or a pattern of frivolous, vexatious, abusive, or bad faith requests.

The Public Information Act process in Maryland generally defaults to disclosure. Up until recently, PIA requesters could make requests in bad faith that would hamstring local custodians and agencies who were still forced to comply. This legislation builds on those protections for governmental units and will not harm good faith efforts to acquire documents that individuals have a right to request.

For these reasons the League respectfully requests that this committee provide a favorable report on Senate Bill 554. 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 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.

47 State Circle, Suite 403 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 295-9100 www.mdmunicipal.org