

MML- SB 497- UNFAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Iris Ibegbulem

Position: UNF



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

TESTIMONY

February 20, 2025

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Bill: SB 497 - Department of Information Technology - Maryland OneStop - Required State, County, and Municipal Information

Position: Unfavorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) respectfully requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 497, which requires Maryland municipalities to update and upload certain information onto the Maryland OneStop portal. This bill also states that municipalities must also update all licenses, forms, certificates, permits, applications every two months.

This bill puts resource and administrative constraints on municipalities, especially the smaller ones. For these smaller municipalities, with smaller budgets and staff, this adds to a workload that is already full of daily administrative and operational tasks. To upload and update licenses, forms, certificates, permits, applications and registrations onto the Maryland OneStop portal every two months, it would require more financial obligations than currently available. Additionally, smaller municipalities may require further technical assistance and education on how to upload these materials online, which takes away time for other necessary duties.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 497. For more information, please contact Iris Ibegbulem, Senior Associate, Advocacy and Public Affairs at irisi@mdmunicipal.org or 215-842-8958. 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.

SB0497-EEE_MACo_OPP.pdf

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Position: UNF



Senate Bill 497

Department of Information Technology - Maryland OneStop - Required State, County, and Municipal Information

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

Date: February 20, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 497. This bill requires every county and municipal corporation to make all licenses, forms, certificates, permits, applications, and registrations available on Maryland OneStop by July 1, 2026. Additionally, local governments would be required to update these materials every two months to ensure accuracy.

While increasing public access to licensing and permitting information is a worthy goal, this bill imposes significant administrative and financial burdens on local governments without guaranteeing the necessary resources for implementation. SB 497 presents significant concerns regarding implementation, funding, operational impact, and county autonomy. SB 497 does not provide dedicated state funding to support the substantial administrative and technological costs associated with compliance. This lack of financial support places an undue burden on local governments, many of which already face strained budgets.

Ensuring full compliance with this bill would require staff across multiple departments to dedicate time and resources to uploading and maintaining thousands of documents, diverting attention away from essential services and core government functions. The bill lacks clarity on whether local governments would need to fully integrate their existing digital systems with Maryland OneStop or if simple linking would suffice. If full integration is required, counties would face expensive software upgrades, data standardization efforts, and security compliance measures, further increasing costs and administrative burdens.

MACo strongly urges the Committee to consider a feasibility study before proceeding with this legislation. Such a study would assess the financial, operational, and technical implications to ensure that any new requirements are realistic and achievable, and what State funds may make its full implementation achievable.

For these reasons, MACo urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on SB 497.

Senate Bill 497 - DoIT Written Testimony.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Sara Elalamy

Position: INFO



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Katie Savage | Secretary

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Department of Information Technology
RE: Senate Bill 497 - Department of Information Technology - Maryland OneStop - Required State, County, and Municipal Information
DATE: February 20, 2025
POSITION: Letter of Concern

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman,

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) is concerned about Senate Bill 497 - Department of Information Technology - Maryland OneStop - Required State, County, and Municipal Information. This bill mandates the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) to oversee the integration and regular updating of state, county, and municipal licensing data within the Maryland OneStop portal. While we acknowledge the bill's intent to enhance accessibility and transparency, the proposed legislation presents significant operational, financial, and administrative challenges that outweigh its potential benefits. **We list below some of our key concerns.**

The bill expands DoIT's responsibilities beyond its current capacity, requiring the department to manage, update, and verify both state and local licensing data on a bi-monthly basis. Establishing new workflows and compliance mechanisms will demand considerable time, effort, and coordination with hundreds of local government entities.

The bill requires all counties and municipalities to upload and maintain their licenses, forms, permits, and applications on the Maryland Business Express. Many smaller jurisdictions lack the necessary technical expertise and digital infrastructure to comply, forcing DoIT to provide additional training, technical assistance, and oversight, further straining its resources.

The mandated updates include all licenses and permits from county and local governments and the updates every two months create a continuous cycle of data management, requiring additional staffing, system upgrades, and cybersecurity measures to ensure compliance and



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data integrity. Without dedicated state funding, these obligations may divert resources from other critical IT initiatives that serve Maryland's residents and businesses. Lastly, DoIT estimates that this bill will have a fiscal impact of \$15 million dollars on the state of Maryland.

We appreciate your consideration and welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively to address these concerns.

Best,

Melissa Leaman
Acting Secretary
Department of Information Technology