



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

TESTIMONY

March 5, 2025

Committee: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Bill: HB 1360 - Environment - Road Salt - Outdoor Storage

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 1360, with amendments. The prohibits the storage of road salt uncover outdoors and requires regulations to be developed regarding the storage of road salt covered outdoors.

Municipal governments provide for the maintenance of about 10% of road lane miles in the State, which includes preparing and clearing roadways during inclement winter weather. Road salt can be a useful tool to improve roadway safety during winter weather events, but the storage of it is also important; an environmental stewardship element with which municipal public works departments are keenly aware.

Road salt usage and storage is indirectly addressed in federal law, so the prohibition on uncovered outdoor storage may be redundant. Regulations developed by the Maryland Department of the Environment for covered storage of road salt may be appropriate, but MML recommends that the process be expressly collaborative with local governments and that the regulations strike a collaborative balance rather than a punitive one.

MML proposed amendments:

Starting on page 1, line 19:

(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTIES, AND PRIVATE CONTRACTORS, TO ESTABLISH:

(1) PROPER OUTDOOR STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR ROAD SALT; AND

(2) ~~PENALTIES AND REMEDIATION~~ REQUIREMENTS FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REGULATIONS.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report with the above amendments on House Bill 1360. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at billj@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.