



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

TESTIMONY

February 26, 2025

Committee: House – Environment and Transportation

Bill: HB 1058 - Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management - Local Authority

Position: *Favorable*

Reason for Position:

On behalf of the Maryland Municipal League (MML), representing 161 local governments across the state, we respectfully submit this testimony in **support** of House Bill 1058. This bill is a critical step toward empowering local governments to effectively address environmental concerns in our communities, while aligning with state and federal standards.

As Maryland municipalities continue to face unique challenges related to air quality, waste management, and environmental sustainability, HB 1058 provides local governments with the necessary authority to regulate emissions and solid waste within jurisdictions. By allowing political subdivisions to adopt more stringent local standards, the bill offers municipalities the flexibility to address specific local environmental issues, ensuring the health and safety of their residents. The bill strikes an important balance by ensuring that local standards cannot be less stringent than state and federal regulations, fostering a consistent approach to environmental protection across Maryland. At the same time, it recognizes the ability of local governments to be proactive in safeguarding the environment and public health by adopting standards that best reflect the unique needs of our communities. HB 1058 provides clear guidelines for municipalities to exercise regulatory authority over emission and waste management issues. The inclusion of local government input in shaping these regulations is essential for ensuring that state and local environmental goals are achieved together, without conflict.

The Maryland Municipal League strongly **supports** HB 1058 because it empowers our local governments to be more proactive in managing environmental challenges while maintaining consistency with state and federal regulations. By clarifying local authority to regulate air quality and waste, this bill promotes responsible and effective environmental stewardship at the local level, ensuring that Maryland municipalities can continue to protect their communities and contribute to the state's broader environmental objectives. We respectfully urge the committee to give a favorable report on HB 1058. For more information, please contact Tyler Alexis Brice, Manager of Advocacy and Public Affairs, at tylerb@mdmunicipal.org or 254-652-8110. Thank you 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.