



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

TESTIMONY

February 12, 2025

Committee: House - Environment and Transportation

Bill: HB 407 – Environment - Municipal Recycling Plans - Requirement

Position: Unfavorable

Reason for Position:

On behalf of the Maryland Municipal League (MML), representing 160 municipal governments across the state, we respectfully submit this testimony expressing our **opposition** to House Bill 407. While we recognize the importance of environmental stewardship and the goal of increased recycling, the bill as currently drafted raises significant constitutional concerns and imposes an undue burden on local governments.

HB 407 mandates disparate recycling requirements based solely on population size, a method that we believe violates the principles of equal treatment and municipal home rule guaranteed by Article XI-E of the Maryland Constitution. This article ensures that state legislation affecting municipal corporations must be applied uniformly, and the current population-based distinctions are arbitrary and lack sufficient justification. In practice, this approach unfairly targets certain municipalities by subjecting them to more onerous mandates without consideration of their unique local circumstances. The fiscal impact of these mandates cannot be overlooked. Municipalities are already challenged by budget constraints and the need to address a variety of local priorities. The additional administrative and financial burdens imposed by HB 407 will divert limited resources away from other critical community services and undermine local autonomy.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests that the committee reconsider the provisions of HB 407. We are committed to working collaboratively with the delegate and other stakeholders to develop a more equitable and constitutionally sound approach that advances our shared environmental objectives without compromising the rights and responsibilities of Maryland's municipal governments.

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.