



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

## TESTIMONY

February 20, 2025

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill:** SB 652 - Local Government – Local Personnel – Leave With Pay

**Position:** Favorable with Amendment

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports Senate Bill 652, with amendment. The bill provides for a dedicated type of leave for certain local government employees. MML's proposed amendment would make it clear that the leave is at the discretion of the employer, not an entitlement for the employee.

Municipal governments generally provide excellent fringe benefits as part of their compensation package for municipal employees, which tends to result in a stable workforce. However, many municipal jobs are inherently different in that they support essential services such as water and wastewater treatment, public safety, refuse collection, and infrastructure maintenance. With such critical assignments, entitled leave can place an outsized burden on municipal governments to find temporary replacements. As such MML requests an amendment to the bill that clarifies that the leave proposed in this bill is given at the employer's discretion.

Amendment:

Page 1, lines 21-22

**(B) ON REQUEST, AN EMPLOYEE SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION MAY BE GIVEN ENTITLED  
~~TO~~ DISASTER SERVICE LEAVE WITH PAY IF:**

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report with the above amendment on Senate Bill 652. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at [billj@mdmunicipal.org](mailto:billj@mdmunicipal.org). Thank you in advance for your consideration.