



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

TESTIMONY

March 5, 2025

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill: SB 872 - Local Government - Hiring and Promotion Preferences for Veterans and Spouses of Service Members and Veterans (Families Serve Act)

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports Senate Bill 872, with amendment. The bill provides for local governments to implement a hiring preference for military veterans and their spouses.

Municipal governments employ 24,000 people in the State and act as economic drivers of their region; hiring the right people to work in the public sector is critically important and this bill provides another tool for local governments to customize their hiring practices. Should a local government want to prioritize the hiring of military veterans or their spouses, this bill would allow them to do so. While the bill seems to be enabling for the local government employer, MML seeks a clarifying amendment to further solidify this point.

Amendment:

On page 3, in line 7

“(D) FOR AN EMPLOYER ~~WHO~~ THAT IS A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION THAT CHOOSES TO GRANT A PREFERENCE UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SHALL ADOPT A LOCAL LAW THAT PROVIDES FOR THE HIRING AND PROMOTION PREFERENCE AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION BEFORE IMPLEMENTING THE PREFERENCE.”

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report with the above amendment on Senate Bill 872. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at billj@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.