



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

TESTIMONY

February 27, 2025

Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Bill: HB 860 - Public Nuisance - Common Carriers - Damage to Public Infrastructure

Position: Favorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 860. The bill allows local governments to bring an action against a common carrier when a common carrier causes damage to public infrastructure that results in the closing of public infrastructure.

The bill provides municipal governments clear lines of recourse should a common carrier cause damage to public infrastructure to the point that it must be closed or shut down. When such disturbances arise much of the immediate responsibility falls to the local government to maintain order and public safety. The provisions of the bill that allow local governments to seek injunctive relief, declaratory relief, and compensatory damages plus an additional \$1,000 per day that the public infrastructure is closed allow local governments to recoup the costs of repair and nuisance to residents and businesses. It may also provide some incentive for common carriers to enact safer policies. This type of incident is not out of the ordinary as we have seen in freight train spills or truck accidents recently occur.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 860. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at billj@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.