



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

TESTIMONY

February 25, 2025

Committee: House Judiciary

Bill: HB 748 - Municipalities - Enforcement Officers - Body-Worn Cameras

Position: Favorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (“MML”) supports House Bill 748, which authorizes a municipality to adopt an ordinance or a resolution authorizing an official who is authorized to act as an enforcement officer to use a body-worn camera (“BWC”) during the course of the official’s duties.

Officials who are authorized to act as an enforcement officer could include municipal employees like Code Enforcement Officers, who interact with the public in non-criminal but potentially emotionally charged situations. BWCs can act as a deterrent to aggressive or confrontational behavior from members of the public, knowing their actions are being recorded. In potentially dangerous situations, having a camera may help de-escalate tense encounters, as people may behave more civilly when aware they are being filmed. The footage can also serve as a tool for investigating incidents in which officers feel threatened or are involved in critical situations, providing a clearer understanding of the circumstances. We see this bill as an enabling tool to protect our hard-working and potentially vulnerable employees.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the Committee provide House Bill 748 with a favorable report. For more information, please contact Angelica Bailey Thupari, Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs, at angelicab@mdmunicipal.org or (443) 756-0071. 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.