



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

## TESTIMONY

February 25, 2025

**Committee:** House Judiciary

**Bill:** HB 1043 - Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2025 - Voter Suppression and Vote Dilution

**Position:** Oppose

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) respectfully opposes House Bill 1043, which creates additional administrative burden and potential legal exposure, and reduces local autonomy for local governments conducting elections.

This measure allows individuals to file legal actions to challenge voting rights issues more easily, which could lead to a significant increase in lawsuits against municipalities. The fact that plaintiffs would be able to challenge voting policies based on their impact, rather than proving intent, could open the door for more legal challenges, potentially resulting in municipalities needing to defend their practices even if there was no discriminatory intent. Participating in these suits utilizes valuable limited resources.

Further, the requirement for the Attorney General to review and approve or deny changes could introduce uncertainty for local governments. Municipalities are concerned about the possibility that their proposed changes might be rejected, which could cause delays and uncertainty in election planning.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the Committee provide House Bill 1043 with an unfavorable report. For more information, please contact Angelica Bailey Thupari, Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs, at [angelicab@mdmunicipal.org](mailto: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.*