



## TESTIMONY

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation

**DATE:** March 4, 2026

**POSITION:** Unfavorable

**BILL:** SB 943

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) represents 161 local governments across the State of Maryland. While the League shares the sponsor's commitment to bolstering Maryland's economy and supporting our local business community, we must respectfully oppose SB 943. As drafted, the bill's rigid procurement mandates pose significant administrative and financial challenges for municipal governments.

SB 943 introduces a standardized scoring system requiring that 30 points (30%) of every procurement evaluation be allocated to "state and local economic impact." While well-intentioned, this creates a "one-size-fits-all" framework that fails to account for the diverse operational realities of Maryland's cities and towns. Municipalities vary widely in size and technical capacity; a mandate of this scale overrides local autonomy in determining how best to steward taxpayer dollars.

For many of our member jurisdictions, the primary driver of procurement is fiscal responsibility. By mandating such a heavy weighting for local economic impact, SB 943 could effectively force municipalities to bypass the lowest responsible bidder. This shift risks higher contract prices for essential infrastructure and services. Furthermore, many small towns lack the specialized staff required to perform the complex economic impact modeling necessary to satisfy the bill's scoring requirements.

The League is particularly concerned about the impact on our members in Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore. These municipalities often share economic ecosystems with neighboring states. A rigid "Buy Maryland" requirement ignores these long-standing regional partnerships and could stifle competition, ultimately driving up costs for residents in these border communities where the most qualified or cost-effective vendor may reside just across state lines.

While MML supports the spirit of investing in Maryland, the prescriptive nature of SB 943 creates an inflexible procurement environment that will lead to budgetary strain and administrative hardship for local governments.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests an unfavorable report on SB 943.

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For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

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