



## TESTIMONY

**COMMITTEE:** House Economic Matters

**DATE:** February 12, 2026

**POSITION:** Favorable with Amendments

**BILL:** House Bill 240

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 240 and appreciates the Department of Planning’s collaborative approach in developing this legislation. As introduced, the bill requires local planning commissions to notify the Department of Planning at the outset of a comprehensive plan review, triggering the provision of guidance materials developed in consultation with relevant State agencies. These materials are intended to support local governments by outlining applicable State laws, best practices, and other planning resources, without altering the frequency or substantive requirements of local comprehensive plan updates.

MML initially sought clarification on several implementation details, which the Department promptly and adequately addressed. As a result, we no longer have outstanding concerns. Importantly, this bill advances exactly the type of early, substantive state–local coordination municipalities have long supported—offering useful guidance and collaboration rather than prescriptive mandates or boilerplate requirements. The League views HB 240 as a constructive step toward improving planning outcomes while preserving local flexibility, and we appreciate the Department’s openness to feedback as this framework is implemented.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 240.

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

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*MML represents 161 local governments and about 2 million Maryland residents.*