



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

DATE: April 2, 2026

POSITION: Informational

BILL: HB 1178

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) is neutral on HB 1178 with the House amendments, which now requires notification of state legislators when an annexation would cross state legislative lines.

Municipalities often seek to annex adjacent areas to promote orderly growth, enhance service delivery, and address community needs. Currently, local governments are required to publish three public notices for the required public hearing on a proposed annexation.

Requiring consent, as the bill was introduced, gives us great concern.

The proposed restriction based on legislative district boundaries, which are primarily designed for electoral purposes, does not align with the practical considerations of municipal planning and development. Introducing legislative district boundaries as a limiting factor would add an arbitrary constraint that will undermine existing annexation plans and service delivery across the state. Furthermore, if HB 1178 were enacted as introduced, municipal annexation plans would face potential upheaval each time the state undergoes redistricting.

The provision requiring consent from another government entity (county or state) to annex land they own is a solution in search of a problem. Currently, annexation is a collaborative process that requires public hearings and significant community input. By granting a "veto" to a county or state agency simply because they hold title to a parcel of land, HB 1178 ignores the broader public interest. If a community wants to be annexed into a municipality to have water and sewer extended to their properties, they shouldn't have to seek additional approvals or wait 10 years and hope the next redistricting commission moves the line.

We ask you to keep this in mind when considering HB 1178.

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

Justin Fiore: Director, Advocacy and Public Policy, justinf@mdmunicipal.org