



## TESTIMONY

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

**DATE:** March 25, 2026

**POSITION:** Favorable

**BILL:** HB 357

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) appreciates the intent behind House Bill 357 and thanks the Sponsor for working collaboratively with us on targeted amendments. As introduced, the bill raised several administrative and implementation concerns for municipalities, which resulted in our original Favorable with Amendments position. With the adoption of amendments developed in coordination with MML, those concerns have been addressed while preserving the bill's transparency objectives, and we are able to support the bill in its current form.

As originally drafted, House Bill 357 required municipalities to report the dates of both regular and special municipal elections to the State Board of Elections (SBE), including advance notice requirements of six months for regular elections and five business days for special elections. The bill also required municipalities, SBE, and county boards of elections to publish municipal election information online and required municipalities to submit certified election results to SBE within 30 days.

MML supported the goal of improving transparency and public access to municipal election information. However, the original language created new reporting and notice requirements that did not always align with how municipal elections are scheduled and administered, particularly for special elections, which are often governed by local charter provisions and may occur on short timelines. These provisions risked creating technical noncompliance without significantly improving public access.

MML worked with the sponsor on amendments that maintain the bill's transparency goals while aligning the requirements with existing municipal practices. As amended, the bill relies largely on current reporting and posting processes rather than creating new standalone deadlines. This approach preserves public access to election information while avoiding unnecessary administrative burden for municipalities.

MML encourages the Committee to accept the bill as revised. With no further amendments, MML's position is favorable.

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For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:  
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*Maryland's 157 municipalities operate on varied election cycles; some years see a municipal election every month.*