



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: House Environment and Transportation

DATE: February 3, 2026

POSITION: Favorable with Amendments

BILL: HB 119

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 119, with amendments.

HB 119 expands opportunities for public bodies, including counties, to utilize energy performance contracts that promote energy efficiency and modernization of public infrastructure. In its current form, the bill authorizes a system in which designated regional Navigators assist public bodies with negotiating and developing energy performance contracts. While MML appreciates the intention behind this approach, making valuable expertise available to local governments, we remain concerned that, as drafted, the bill could unintentionally impose new administrative obligations on local governments, particularly counties and municipalities.

It is critical to recognize that counties and municipalities already possess diverse structures and procedures for managing procurement and contracts. Mandating county compliance with Title 12, Subtitle 3 of the State Finance and Procurement Article establishes new, potentially duplicative administrative burdens ([§12-301](#), [§12-302](#), and [§12-303](#)). Local governments must continue to have the flexibility to access state expertise if and when it is helpful—without being required to modify local administrative processes or report to additional external entities.

To that end, the League recommends the following amendments:

1. On page 3, strike the language starting with “(1)” in line 15 through “REGION.” in line 19 and substitute:

“When entering into an energy performance contract a public body may request assistance from the navigator for the public body’s region in negotiating and developing an energy performance contract.”

2. On page 4, lines 16 and 17, strike “NOTICE”, “(A)(2)”, and “SHALL”, and substitute “A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE”, “(A)”, and “MAY”, respectively.

These amendments clarify that working with the Navigator is not mandatory; rather, it is an optional resource available for local governments that choose to access it.

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

Municipalities need innovative solutions to meet energy and sustainability goals. HB 119, with the proposed amendments, will provide a valuable mechanism for government entities to access expert guidance on energy performance contracts—without forcing new layers of bureaucracy or compliance onto local governments. This approach preserves local autonomy, is administratively practical, and enhances the capacity of local governments to efficiently modernize their facilities and operations.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests the adoption of these clarifying amendments and urges a favorable report on House Bill 119. With these changes, HB 119 will strengthen the ability of counties and municipalities to pursue energy efficiency while protecting their administrative flexibility and resources.

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

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