



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: House Environment and Transportation

DATE: February 3, 2026

POSITION: Favorable

BILL: HB 40

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) is pleased to offer this favorable testimony in support of House Bill 40. This legislation is a vital affirmation of local authority, meaningful engagement, and the power of coordination as Maryland confronts large-scale infrastructure projects such as the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project.

As statewide initiatives like the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project advance, municipalities are at the forefront of responding to community concerns, protecting residents, and facilitating responsible development. HB40 recognizes the essential role of local governments as partners, rather than bystanders, in these processes. Local governments possess direct knowledge of their communities and are best equipped to address impacts unique to their jurisdictions. This bill safeguards that capacity by ensuring local perspectives are integral to planning and decision-making.

A favorable report on HB40 is also a positive stance against unnecessary preemption of local authority. Preemption, the displacement or overriding of local decision-making by the state, can undermine the ability of municipalities to protect public safety, preserve community character, and address the specific needs of residents. HB40 affirms that the state values collaboration with municipalities, and that preemptive policies should be weighed carefully when local voices have vital contributions to make.

Additionally, the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project stands as a clear example of why HB40 is needed. Transmission projects of this scale have complex and far-reaching implications, not only for the state but for individual municipalities and neighborhoods directly affected by construction and long-term operations. By requiring early and ongoing municipal engagement, HB40 ensures that such projects proceed with full transparency, accountability, and regard for local input, ultimately leading to better, safer, and more widely supported outcomes.

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

Public safety and responsive governance are fundamental values shared by the Maryland Municipal League and our member municipalities. HB40 promotes both, honoring the principle of local authority while setting clear expectations for partnership among state and local stakeholders. Through its provisions, the bill enables Maryland's cities and towns to protect their residents and contribute constructively to statewide progress. For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 40.

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

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