



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance

DATE: March 10, 2026

POSITION: Unfavorable

BILL: SB 522

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) opposes Senate Bill 522, Workers' Compensation - Evaluation of Permanent Impairments - Licensed Social Worker-Clinical.

SB 522 adds “licensed certified social worker-clinical” to the list of people who are authorized to conduct evaluation services for workers’ compensation claims related to permanent impairments involving a behavioral or mental disorder. While the intent to increase the supply of available professionals to perform this type of evaluation, this bill takes a stark departure from past precedent.

Behavioral and mental evaluations involving workers compensation claims must adhere to certain American Medical Association standards traditionally done by currently authorized medical professionals. There is concern that by allowing non-doctors to conduct these evaluations the quality and consistency of the ratings may suffer. Additionally, introducing non-doctor evaluations of this type may lead to their findings to face significant challenges in the court system.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide Senate Bill 522 with an unfavorable report.

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

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Municipalities in Maryland support 42,000 jobs and provide \$5.2 billion in employee compensation.