



## TESTIMONY

**COMMITTEE:** House Government, Labor, and Elections

**DATE:** February 26, 2026

**POSITION:** Favorable

**BILL:** HB 1141

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 1141, which provides residents with a clear pathway to municipal incorporation.

Municipal incorporation understandably requires several significant procedural steps along the way to forming a new governing body. Part of the process includes establishing an organizing committee, working with the county liaison, holding public meetings, and developing a municipal charter.

But, after all this work, there is no mechanism that would require a county to allow a referendum of the voters to occur. As such, we have only seen 5 successful municipal corporations since 1954, all of which were already special taxing districts and provided no property tax revenue to their respective counties. No new community has established a municipality in over 70 years.

HB 1141 gives local communities a fighting chance by requiring the county to approve a referendum request at the end of the process if 40% of the area's residents signed the incorporation petition. Registered voters would still have to vote for incorporation via referendum, but they will at least have the opportunity. We believe this is a reasonable and balanced approach which enables Maryland residents to have a say in their manner of representation.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1141.

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

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