



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings

DATE: March 31, 2026

POSITION: Favorable

BILL: House Bill 172

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 172, which authorizes a municipality to adopt an ordinance or a resolution authorizing an official who is authorized to act as an enforcement officer to use a body-worn camera (“BWC”) during the course of the official’s duties.

Officials who are authorized to act as an enforcement officer could include municipal employees like Code Enforcement Officers, who interact with the public in non-criminal but potentially emotionally charged situations. BWCs can act as a deterrent to aggressive or confrontational behavior from members of the public, knowing their actions are being recorded. In potentially dangerous situations, having a camera may help de-escalate tense encounters, as people may behave more civilly when aware they are being filmed. The footage can also serve as a tool for investigating incidents in which officers feel threatened or are involved in critical situations, providing a clearer understanding of the circumstances. We see this bill as an enabling tool to protect our hard-working and potentially vulnerable employees.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the Committee provide House Bill 172 with a favorable report.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:
Angelica Bailey Thupari: Director, Advocacy and Public Policy, angelicab@mdmunicipal.org

MML represents 88 municipal police departments and roughly 4,000 officers.