



## TESTIMONY

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Judicial Proceedings

**DATE:** February 24, 2026

**POSITION:** Unfavorable

**BILL:** Senate Bill 660

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) respectfully opposes Senate Bill 660. We acknowledge the seriousness of the issues this legislation seeks to address. Municipalities do not take lightly questions involving constitutional rights, public accountability, or community trust. Our opposition is not rooted in the broader politics of immigration enforcement but on the operational responsibilities this would place on local law enforcement agencies.

SB 660 mandates that local agencies respond whenever they receive notice of a federal immigration enforcement action in their jurisdiction. Agencies must dispatch at least one officer to observe and, where practicable, record the event, generate detailed reports, preserve records for extended periods, and ensure the safe transfer of any individual taken into custody.

The “safe transfer” requirement is particularly concerning. Requiring a municipal officer to ensure the transfer of an individual in federal custody blurs the lines between separate sovereign law enforcement entities. The bill does not clearly define the officer’s authority, the scope of responsibility, or how liability would be allocated if an injury occurs. It is also unclear whether this language creates an affirmative legal duty that could expose municipalities to tort or civil rights claims. This ambiguity presents significant and unnecessary legal risk.

The bill also diverts limited personnel from core public safety responsibilities by requiring dispatch upon notice, regardless of call volume or competing emergencies. For smaller departments especially, mandatory observation of federal activity strains already limited staffing.

Finally, the extensive reporting, body-worn camera, retention, and public disclosure requirements create additional administrative burden and potential unfunded costs, while raising privacy and officer safety concerns.

Municipal concern is practical: SB 660 imposes new mandates and liability exposure on local police departments without clear authority, indemnification, or resources. For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 660.

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For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:  
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*MML represents 88 municipal police departments and roughly 4,000 officers.*