



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: House Judiciary

DATE: February 24, 2026

POSITION: Unfavorable

BILL: HB 32

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) is opposed to HB 32: Local Law Enforcement Vehicles - Requirements - Automated External Defibrillators.

While the League understands the value of life saving devices such as an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), the scope of the bill and subsequent related costs are too much for already budget-constrained municipalities. HB 32 imposes a statewide unfunded mandate on municipal governments that would create a recurring fiscal burden, which MML historically opposes.

Under this bill, every vehicle that is classified as a “local law enforcement vehicle” would be required to carry an AED, the cost of which would fall to the municipal governments. The typical cost per unit ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,500; for jurisdictions with large fleets the combined upfront costs can reach tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars. This is also not a one-time cost but instead requires repeated funding for ongoing maintenance; such as battery replacement every 2-4 years which typically costs \$150 to \$300 a battery or electrode pad replacement every 1-2 years which can range from \$50 - \$100 per set. There is also the need for periodic testing and oversight to maintain device functionality as well as potential training costs to ensure effective usage.

Municipal budgets are set with revenue structures that are limited and finalized in advance of the fiscal year. Imposing new recurring expenditures without proper state funding will require municipalities to modify resources from other priorities, delay projects, and absorb service impacts.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 32 with an unfavorable report.

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

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