



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

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February 17, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Chair, House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **Favorable Recommendation for HB1142 — Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures**

I strongly support **HB1142**, a priority bill of the **Maryland Municipal League**, because it takes a crucial step toward ensuring that Maryland's counties and municipalities have the tools and information they need to effectively serve their residents. This bill establishes a state-level **Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures**, charged with studying and evaluating existing revenue mechanisms and recommending reforms that reflect 21st-century economic realities.

Today's local governments shoulder significant responsibilities — from providing public safety and infrastructure services to supporting economic development and community quality of life — yet many are still operating under revenue frameworks that have not materially evolved in over 60 years. The League's legislative process identified modernizing municipal revenue streams as its top priority precisely to address this imbalance, recognizing that local governments need reliable, flexible, and fair revenue options to meet resident expectations without overburdening property taxpayers.

HB1142's Task Force will bring together municipal and county representatives, state revenue experts, and key stakeholders to examine current revenue sources, explore options used in other states, and assess potential impacts of new local revenue authorities. The resulting recommendations will help inform future legislative and policy decisions that strengthen municipal fiscal health while maintaining affordability and transparency for Marylanders.

For these reasons, I urge a **favorable recommendation** on HB1142 — helping ensure that local governments can sustainably support vibrant, resilient communities across Maryland.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Nicewarner

City Administrator, City of Hagerstown