

Robert Croslin  
Mayor



Tracey E. Douglas  
City Administrator

February 20, 2026

Ways and Means Committee  
130 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 1142 Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures

Dear Chair Wilkins and Vice Chair Feldmark,

On behalf of the City of Hyattsville, I write in support of House Bill 1142, which establishes a Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures. We appreciate Delegate Wilkins' leadership and the General Assembly's willingness to revisit Maryland's municipal finance framework.

For decades, municipalities have operated within a largely unchanged revenue structure, relying heavily on property taxes to fund essential local services. This overreliance limits flexibility and constrains municipalities' ability to respond to changing economic conditions, infrastructure needs, and resident expectations. A thoughtful review of municipal and county revenue tools is both timely and necessary.

Hyattsville strongly supports the creation of a formal body to study revenue diversification, including evaluating alternative revenue tools used in other states and assessing the impacts on affordability and economic competitiveness. As a growing, transit-oriented municipality that supports both residents and regional visitors, we recognize firsthand the mismatch between where services are delivered and where revenue is generated.

At the same time, we respectfully request consideration of amendments related to the structure of the proposed Task Force.

As drafted, the bill provides for two representatives from the Maryland Municipal League (MML) to be designated by the organization's Chief Executive Officer.

While the City of Hyattsville values the advocacy role of MML, we believe the appointment structure should better reflect the diversity of Maryland's municipal landscape and ensure broad-based legitimacy.

Municipalities across Maryland vary widely in size, tax base composition, and economic context—from small rural towns to mature inner-ring suburbs to large independent cities. The implications of any recommendations from this Task Force will vary significantly across these communities. For that reason, we believe municipal representation should be selected through a more representative and transparent process.

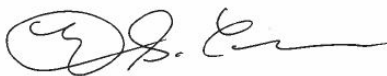
Specifically, we offer the following recommendations for consideration:

1. Representative Selection by Elected Leadership Municipal representatives should be selected by the elected governing body of the Maryland Municipal League, rather than at the sole discretion of its Executive Director. As a member-driven organization, appointments made by the elected board would better reflect the collective voice of Maryland's municipalities.
2. Regional or Chapter-Based Representation (Alternative Approach) Alternatively, the General Assembly may wish to consider ensuring geographic and economic diversity by drawing representatives from multiple MML chapters. A chapter-based model could help ensure that recommendations are informed by the realities of different regional economies and municipal tax structures.
3. Transparency and Balance Regardless of the approach selected, we encourage the General Assembly to ensure that municipal appointments are made through a process that is transparent, representative, and reflective of the broad range of municipal fiscal conditions across the State.

These suggested changes are offered in the spirit of strengthening the Task Force and ensuring that its findings are credible and widely supported across Maryland's municipalities. Hyattsville believes that modernizing local revenue structures is essential to maintaining vibrant, resilient communities. A well-structured Task Force can help Maryland better align local authority with modern fiscal realities while balancing affordability for residents and competitiveness for our local economies.

We respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 1142 with consideration of the amendments outlined above. Thank you for your leadership and for the opportunity to provide input on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. S. Croslin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular initial "R".

Robert S. Croslin  
Mayor

cc: City Council