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SB 445 – Motor Vehicles – Operation When Approaching Vehicle With Visual Signals

Joined by Mayor Craig Moe of Laurel and dozens of municipal workers, MML testified in support of this workers' safety bill in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Tuesday, February 7. Senator Wayne Norman's bill would add to Maryland's "Move Over" laws, requiring a driver to change lanes or slow down when approaching certain vehicles from behind. The list would be expanded to include waste and recycling trucks, public works vehicles, and just about any motor vehicle with yellow flashing lights that is working on the side of the road.

The House version (HB 531, sponsored by Chair Anne Healey) will be heard on Thursday, February 15 in the House Environment and Transportation Committee.

SB 474 – Ethics – Local Public Ethics Commissions and Entities – Meeting and Reporting Requirements

MML was joined by MACo staff testifying in support of this legislation with amendments on Thursday, February 8. The bill, as introduced, would have required local ethics commissions to meet three times a year and submit an annual report to the local governing body and each member of the General Assembly who represents that jurisdiction. MML and MACo applauded Senator Joanne Benson's efforts to increase transparency and proposed amending the meeting requirement down to once a year. MML further testified that the reporting requirements are unnecessary, as the information sought under the bill is already publicly available.

Comparative Fault and Bike/Ped Accidents

Every few years a bill reappears in the General Assembly that would statutorily change Maryland from a state with a contributory negligence standard to one with a comparative fault standard. There are many nuances to these terms and how they might apply in a legal case; but in general if a plaintiff is found to be partially negligent for an accident, that person would not be entitled to compensation under a contributory negligence standard while they may be entitled to partial damages under a comparative fault system. Currently, there are additional legal provisions in Maryland that provide plaintiffs with other options for recourse.

Last week, MML staff testified in opposition to SB 465 that would have applied a comparative fault standard in only Maryland cases involving a bike/pedestrian that is struck by a vehicle. This would have created an imbalanced legal system through a special carve-out in the law and the committee members in the Senate agreed, voting the bill unfavorable.

Top 3 School Visit Myths

Every year you hear about all the great feels officials get from visiting local schools and educating students about municipal government. Then, the year gets off to a running start and you think – next year. I'll do a school visit next year. It's not too late. Check out the top three myths about school visits then dial up your local school and get on their schedule.

Myth #1 You have to visit a 4th grade class. For those who want to help the fourth graders in their area contend for the Mayor's Essay contest, it's been proven that a school visit is helpful. But MML supports all school visits. Educating youth and young adults of all ages about the benefits of municipal government is a win for all. AND, any school visit counts for Banner City recognition purposes.

Myth #2 You can only do school visits in November. Officials can conduct school visits any time of year. The more flexible your schedule, the easier it will be to get into the classroom. As long as school visits are conducted within the current Banner City year, they'll count on your BCT application. But those conducted in November also count as an MGW activity – bonus!

Myth #3 It has to be a school within your town limits. Smaller communities may not have a school in their towns. Work with other nearby officials to see if you could team up on a school visit. Or, if officials don't plan on visiting their local school, that's your chance. Also, don't forget private schools or invite a home schooling co-op to visit the town hall for a talk and tour!

MML understands how packed the schedules of your officials are. But school visits are a great grassroots way to stay connected to the community. Even better, visiting with young people to talk about what you do reminds you exactly why you do it. So, contact your area school today and schedule a visit. You won't regret it.

Maryland Municipal Hall of Fame – Submissions Accepted through Spring

Have you or an official you know served at least 20 years as an elected municipal official? Then you're Hall of Fame bound. The Maryland Municipal League's Hall of Fame honors current and former municipal officials (living or deceased) who have served 20 years or more as a municipal elected official. Submissions are now being accepted for the 2018 Municipal Hall of Fame class.

- Inductee names submitted by April 17 will appear in the Summer Conference Program
- Officials will be inducted during the dinner at the annual summer conference in Ocean City on June 12
- Inductees receive one complimentary ticket to the summer conference dinner
- All Hall of Fame inductees' names will be displayed on a special plaque at the MML office in Annapolis

2018 Hall of Fame candidates must have completed 20 years as an elected municipal official by June 30, 2018. Candidates that will not reach the 20-year milestone until after June 30 must wait for the next induction cycle.

Please complete the [Hall of Fame form](#) and send to paulah@mdmunicipal.org or contact Paula Chase Hyman, MML Director Member Relations at 410-268-5514. Visit our [Hall of Fame](#) page to see the complete list of inductees.

Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement

If your city or town has not yet signed the state's Municipal Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement, please consider doing so at a council meeting this winter. We know from La Plata's catastrophic tornado and a variety of local emergencies that have occurred since then, that municipalities are always quick to assist each other in a time of crisis. However, **FEMA and MEMA regulations can limit your jurisdiction's ability to receive reimbursement** for such assistance unless your municipality has a signed mutual aid agreement with the city or town you are assisting.

To date, the following cities and towns have signed the agreement along with an accompanying resolution and submitted it to the Maryland Municipal League office: **Aberdeen, Accident, Bel Air, Berwyn Heights, Berlin, Betterton, Bowie, Brunswick, Charlestown, Chesapeake Beach, Cheverly, College Park, Forest Heights, Frederick, Friendsville, Fruitland, Grantsville, Greenbelt, Greensboro, Hampstead, Landover Hills, Laurel, Loch Lynn Heights, Millington, Morningside, Mount Rainier, Mountain Lake Park, Oakland, Perryville, Port Deposit, Preston, Ridgely, Riverdale Park, Salisbury, Sykesville, Takoma Park, Taneytown, Thurmont, Upper Marlboro, Walkersville, and Westminster.** For more information on how your municipality can ensure reimbursement in future emergencies, contact MML Education Services Director Tom Reynolds at tomr@mdmunicipal.org or 410/268-5514.

Deadline Approaches! - Award Entries Due March 1

The Maryland Municipal League and the University of Maryland School of Public Policy's Office of Executive Programs are pleased to announce two prestigious awards managed by the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance. The awards represent an opportunity to officially recognize the sterling contributions made by cities and towns and municipal leaders as they strive for excellence. Entries will be evaluated by University of Maryland faculty.

Lifetime Achievement Award

This award recognizes an elected or appointed city/town official who has a strong record of service to the Maryland Municipal League and has demonstrated outstanding service to Maryland municipal government. Nominees can be current or former municipal officials. [Details](#).

Municipal Achievement Awards

The 2018 Municipal Achievement Award theme is *LEAD: Solving Community Problems to Enhance Quality of Life* and will honor municipal officials, municipal staff or municipal residents who have demonstrated leadership by implementing programs and policies to enhance the quality of life within their communities. Categories for this award are: up to 3,000 population; 3,000 – 10,000 population; and over 10,000 population. [Details](#).

Deadline: Entries for both awards must be sent via e-mail to mmlawards@umd.edu by noon on March 1, 2018.

Classifieds

Classified advertisements from Maryland cities, towns, counties and other government agencies will be published in MML's *e-Bulletin* at no charge. If you would like to advertise an **employment opportunity, request for proposals, or a piece of equipment for sale** within the State of Maryland, please e-mail the ad copy, in a text only word doc, 200 words or less to [classified](#). Ads will appear for a 90-day period and can be resubmitted for posting if needed.

[Legislative Status Link](#)

[Classified Section Link](#)

[Important Dates / Deadlines](#)

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