

THE
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LEAGUE



e-BULLETIN

NEWS from the Association of Cities and Towns

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Highway User Revenue (HUR) Bills Achieve Final Passage!

After nine years of hard work, legislation (SB 516/HB 807) to partially restore municipal Highway User Revenues was finally passed in the Senate on the final day of the 90-day legislative session. The bills were well on their way to early passage in mid-March when a last-minute amendment came in from the Department of Transportation (MDOT) to address their bonding capacity. After discussions with MML and legislative leadership, it was decided that there was still adequate time to add the MDOT amendment and achieve final passage in both the House and Senate a second time around.

Much of the credit for passage of this important legislation goes to MML's leadership team, including MML President Jake Romanell, President-Elect Bridget Donnell Newton, Legislative Committee Chair Ryan Spiegel, and Vice Chairs Emmett Jordan and Victoria Jackson-Stanley. Huge kudos also go to the 90-plus MML members who traveled to Annapolis not once, but twice to show their support during the House and Senate hearings on the legislation.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the strong support of House Speaker Michael Busch, Appropriations Committee Chair Maggie McIntosh and Vice Chair Tawanna Gaines, Environment and Transportation Committee Chair Kumar Barve, and House sponsors Delegates Carl Anderton, Jr. and Pam Beidle. On the Senate side, without the "go ahead" from Senate President Mike Miller and Budget and Taxation Chair Ed Kasemeyer, this legislation could have stalled in the Senate once again this year. However, Senate sponsors Rich Madaleno and George Edwards were able to keep the momentum going in the Senate so that both bills passed unanimously not once, but twice in both the House and Senate.

Although the legislation does not restore 100% of municipal HUR funding, it does provide certainty and predictability beginning in FY 2020 through FY 2024 by guaranteeing at least \$38 million in total municipal HUR funding. The fiscal year 2019 State budget will provide a total of \$29.8 million using a combination of approximately \$7.4 million in funding from the base HUR formula, \$20.4 million in grant monies included by the Governor in the FY 2019 State budget, and an additional \$2.1 million in transportation funding included in the last budget supplement from the Governor's office. It's safe to say that HB 807 and SB 516 are jumping off points to enable MML to continue to work towards full funding of HURs beginning in FY 2025.

MML Priority PIA Legislation Signed into Law

League priority bills HB 677 and SB 477 were signed by the Governor on Tuesday, April 10. Introduced as emergency legislation, the bills went into effect immediately. The law now requires a custodian to deny inspection of a distribution list that identifies a physical address, an e-mail address, or a telephone number of an individual that is used by a governmental entity or an elected official for the sole purpose of periodically sending news about certain activities or sending informational notices or emergency alerts.

Local Pension Mandate Died on Sine Die

On the last day of the Maryland General Assembly, HB 971 failed to progress through the Senate and officially died at the stroke of midnight. The bill, which mandated that local government pension programs provide a pension equal to 50% of the member's average final compensation for public safety officials injured in the line of duty, had several major flaws coming out of the House and would have been the first ever mandated minimum pension benefit. MML and Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) staff successfully lobbied to have the bill stay in the Senate Rules Committee.

Medical Cannabis Bill Briefly Amended, then Stripped of Land Use Provisions

In an era of increasing preemption of local authority, MML was unexpectedly roped into the debate on HB 2, the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission Reform Act, due to amendments that touched on land use authority. MML and MACo worked with Senate Finance Committee staff and the dispensary representative to achieve a consensus amendment, which was adopted and put into the bill, that provides an option for a dispensary to relocate due to zoning hardship while fully preserving local planning and zoning authority.

A second amendment was approved that dealt with approval/denial authority of the local government of the jurisdiction where the dispensary seeks to move. In concept this was not a problem, but the wording of the amendment would have given denial authority to counties, even in scenarios where dispensaries sought to relocate to a municipality that was receptive to such a business. Regardless of the debate on medical cannabis, this would have set a terrible precedent that is found nowhere else in local land use. After much pushing, the conference committee struck both amendments, restoring the bill to its original form on which MML took no position.

Bills Fail on Final Day of 2018 Legislative Session

Despite a significant amount of work on two bills by MML and other stakeholders, it wasn't enough to push them over the finish line by midnight on April 9. MML staff and foresters from several municipalities spent an inordinate amount of time on SB 610/HB 766 – Forest Conservation Act (FCA) offering amendments to change the direction of the legislation, as introduced. What started out as a significant rewrite of the State's FCA program in the original bill, turned into a task force in the Senate which included an unbalanced membership and a number of prescribed outcomes. MML opposed SB 610 as amended in the Senate as it made its way over to the House, but was able to work with the House Speaker's staff and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee to offer amendments to instead require

that the Department of Natural Resources and other State agencies and local governments embark on a study to collect relevant data pertinent to reforestation and tree canopy efforts at the State and local levels. Despite passage of both the House and Senate bills in the House early in the day on Monday, neither bill passed the Senate in time to achieve final passage by midnight on sine die, which resulted in the failure of both bills again this session.

On a similar note, HB 1390 – Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreements, also failed in the Senate on the final day of the legislative session. MML initially opposed the bill as it was introduced in the House, but was able to work with the bill sponsor and several municipal attorneys so that, when it was heard in the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs (EHEA) Committee late in session, MML supported the legislation as amended in the House. Despite an apparent lack of opposition, the bill languished in the Senate EHEA Committee without ever coming to a vote before midnight on Monday night.

A full wrap up of legislation impacting municipalities will be included in the May/June issue of *Municipal Maryland* and a listing of the bills tracked and their final outcomes can be found on MML's website under Legislative Advocacy - Bill Position Summary [2018 Bill Position Summary](#). Questions on legislation can be directed to any member of MML's legislative team.

Bill Signing Dates Announced

Although MML's priority legislation (SB 477/HB 677) was signed into law on April 10 as emergency legislation (see separate article), the League's top priority legislation to restore municipal Highway User Revenue funding will be signed into law at one of the next three bill signings, which are scheduled for April 24, May 8, and May 15 all beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the State House in Annapolis. A list of bills to be signed is usually not released until the night before the bill signing. However, MML will attempt to determine which date will include SB 516/HB 807 and give as much notice to the membership as possible. To be safe, for those members who may wish to participate in the HUR bill signing, we suggest you block off those three mornings for possible travel to Annapolis and stay tuned for further information!

2 Days Left - Discounted Conference Registration Expires

You will save money if you register for MML's summer conference **by Friday, April 13**. Register [online](#) and save \$50 on your registration fee. Registration fees and ticket prices increase after April 13. MML's conference schedule includes workshops, forums for tiny towns, small towns, and large cities, the Cabinet Secretaries Roundtable, and an opening session featuring Shannon Huffman Polson author of *True Grit* and one of the first women to fly Apache combat helicopters in the U. S. Armed Forces. The workshop schedule includes over two dozen education sessions designed especially for city and town officials. Refer to the detailed [conference schedule](#) for the latest information on topics and speakers.

MML's summer conference will be held June 10 – 13, 2018 at the Convention Center in Ocean City. You can [register online](#), or use the [registration form](#) in the March issue of *Municipal Maryland*. Sign up today!

Academy Graduate Class at MML's Summer Conference

The Maryland Municipal League, in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, is thrilled to offer the first ever Academy for Excellence in Local Governance graduate class at our summer conference in Ocean City. This 3½ hour session titled "Economic Development Leadership: Creating Prosperity on Main Street," will be led by Edward McMahon, Senior Resident Fellow at the Urban Land Institute and Board Chair of the National Main Street Center. Ed will be joined by a team of economic development experts in providing participants with practical insights to help attendees:

- (a) Integrate and implement economic development best practices and principles into their Main Streets strategies, including the need to establish goals and an economic development budget;
- (b) Better understand and articulate the economic benefits of historic preservation and Main Street revitalization;
- (c) Develop strategies for working with local and State partners to accomplish economic development goals;
- (d) Assess which properties really are "right for development" when attracting businesses and filling vacancies; and,
- (e) Create targeted incentives for property owners, developers, and entrepreneurs to encourage investment in your commercial district and community.

This class will take place on the final day of the conference, Wednesday, June 13 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and is **open to Academy Graduates ONLY**. To register, visit the MML conference [registration page](#). Attendees of the entire conference can register for an additional \$50 by April 13 (\$65 April 14 – May 18); non-conference registrants can register for this class only for \$80 by April 13 (\$100 April 14 – May 18). Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact MML Education Services Director Tom Reynolds at tomr@mdmunicipal.org. MML, MACo and the University Maryland School of Public Policy thank the [Local Government Insurance Trust](#) (LGIT) for its generous support of the [Academy for Excellence in Local Governance](#).

Reserve Your Spot on Municipal Main Street

Showcase your municipality's history, tourist attractions and successful programs/projects to your fellow city and town officials on Municipal Main Street. This hugely popular MML summer conference feature offers excellent value and networking opportunities. Full details can be seen [here](#).

Municipalities already moved onto Main Street are:

Bel Air, Berlin, Cambridge, Capitol Heights, Carroll County Main Streets (Mount Airy, Sykesville, Taneytown, Westminster), Chesapeake Beach, Chesapeake City, Cumberland, Denton, District Heights, Federalsburg, Forest Heights, Frederick, Glenarden, Havre de Grace, Maryland Municipal Clerks Association, Maryland Municipal Parks and Recreation, Maryland Municipal Police Executive Association, Middletown, North Beach, Oakland, Ocean City, Perryville, Pocomoke City, Port Towns (Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, Edmonston), Rock Hall, Salisbury, Seat Pleasant, Snow Hill, St. Michaels, Thurmont, and Williamsport.

2018 MML Conference Flag Parade Registration is NOW OPEN!

Don't be left behind...it's time to register your flag for the very popular MML Parade of Flags! The parade of flags will be held during the summer conference opening general session on Monday, June 11 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center at the Ocean City Convention Center. To participate, each town **must complete** a flag parade registration form, which can be found at [2018 Flag Parade Registration Form](#). All flag bearers **MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE FLAG PARADE REHEARSAL** on Monday morning, June 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the PAC. Please also remember to include your phrase (7 words or less, please) describing your city or town which will be read when your flag is announced during the parade.

Hall of Fame 2018 – First Deadline

MML accepts Hall of Fame submissions through May 30. However, in order to have a Hall of Fame inductee named in the summer conference program we must receive submissions **by April 17**.

If you are an official who will reach 20 years of elected service in municipal government by June 30, 2018 please submit a [nomination](#) form to paulah@mdmunicipal.org no later than Tuesday, April 17.

If you would like to nominate an official, please first check the complete [Hall of Fame list](#) to ensure they have not already been inducted. To search the Hall of Fame database, Click Ctrl + F then enter the person's last name.

MML Resolutions and Bylaws Amendments

MML is now accepting from its members proposed amendments to the MML Bylaws and any resolutions which will be considered at the 2018 summer conference business meeting. Proposed amendments and resolutions must be submitted to the MML office by April 17, 2018. If you are interested in submitting an amendment or resolution for consideration, contact Bill Jorch at billj@mdmunicipal.org or 410-295-9100 to obtain more detailed, procedural information.

MML 2018-19 Board Nominations

Nomination materials for the MML 2018-2019 Board of Directors were e-mailed to chief municipal elected officials, MML chapter presidents, and current MML Board members in March. If you have questions or would like to a copy of the [nomination form](#), please contact Bill Jorch, billj@mdmunicipal.org.

The following nominations for MML's 2018-2019 Board of Directors have been received at the League office:

President-Elect

Perry Jones, Mayor, Union Bridge
Ryan Spiegel, Councilman, Gaithersburg

Board Member At-Large

Mike Benton, Councilman, North Beach

Michael Bibb, Commissioner, St. Michaels
Diane Foster, Mayor Pro Tem, Taneytown
Eugene W. Grant, Mayor, Seat Pleasant

EPA Funding for Water Infrastructure Projects

A second round of funding for water infrastructure projects is available through the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.

The WIFIA program is a federal loan and guarantee program that aims to accelerate investment in the nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects. WIFIA credit assistance can be used for a wide range of projects, including:

- drinking water treatment and distribution projects
- wastewater conveyance and treatment projects
- enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities
- desalination, aquifer recharge, alternative water supply, and water recycling projects
- drought prevention, reduction, or mitigation projects

Letters of Interest from prospective borrowers must be submitted by July 6, 2018. For more information visit www.epa.gov/wifia.

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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