



THE  
MARYLAND  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

**2021**

# **Final Legislative Report**

**Legislation Affecting  
Municipalities**

## Preface

MML's *2021 Final Report on Legislation Affecting Municipalities* illustrates the scope of League activities during the 2021 regular session of the Maryland General Assembly. A copy is being sent via email to each member municipality to apprise local officials of legislation passed during the session that may influence their operations and activities. Persons receiving this report are encouraged to share this information with other appropriate officials in their cities or towns.

There were 2,359 bills and joint resolutions introduced in the General Assembly during the 2021 regular session. League staff reviewed all bills and their many amendments to determine their impacts on local government. During the session, MML sent legislative updates in the weekly *eBulletin* to keep members informed about bills with potential municipal government impact. The Legislative Committee reviewed debated 134 bills and as a result, MML actively supported, supported with amendments, or opposed a total of 88 bills, and closely monitored several others. League efforts were directed by the decisions of the MML Legislative Committee and facilitated by the activities and support of local chapters and individual municipal officials.

This report provides a summary of significant statewide bills passed by the General Assembly that will affect Maryland's municipalities, including those bills tracked by the League. These measures are organized according to general subject headings and are presented with a notation to page number in the [2021 Maryland 90 Day Report](#) where the bill is referenced. The 90 Day Report provides in-depth summaries of enacted legislation from the 2021 General Assembly session.

To view the text of the actual legislation, please go to the [Maryland General Assembly Website](#), enter the bill number in the box on the home page, and then click on the bill number in the top left-hand corner of the bill page.

We recommend this compilation for your general use and guidance. In areas where significant legal questions may arise, we urge that you consult your municipal attorney.

Scott A. Hancock  
Executive Director

Angelica Bailey, Esq.  
Director, Government Relations

Bill Jorch  
Director, Research and Policy Analysis

Justin Fiore  
Manager, Government Relations

Kevin Connors  
Administrative Specialist, Conference and Legislative

James P. Peck  
Research Specialist

## 2020-2021 Legislative Committee

The MML Legislative Committee is charged with several duties, including the review of all Legislative Action Requests (LARs) submitted to the Committee by chapters, departments, and individual member municipalities. After appropriate consideration of all LARs, the Committee recommends a formal legislative program to the League's membership at the annual fall conference.

The 2020-2021 Committee began meeting virtually during the fall of 2020, where they debated and then selected a recommended legislative priority program, which was presented to the membership at the virtual fall conference. Beginning on the first day of the 2021 General Assembly session, the Committee continued to meet every seven to ten days during which time, the Committee guided the League's program, considering over 100 bills, and taking positions on legislation affecting municipalities statewide.

### **Chair**

Lawrence "Jake" Romanell, Councilmember, New Market

### **Vice Chair**

Abigail McNinch, Mayor, Denton

### **Members**

Michael Bibb, Commissioner, St. Michaels

Don Wm. Bradley, Circuit Rider Administrator, Brookview/Church Creek/Eldorado

Lenford Carey, Mayor, University Park

Charles Cephas, Council President, Hurlock

Ernest "Skip" Cornbrooks, Local Government Attorney, Landover Hills/Hyattsville/Takoma Park

Sharla' Crutchfield, City Manager, District Heights

Derek Daves, Code Enforcement Officer, College Park

Judith F. "J" Davis, Councilmember, Greenbelt

Amanda Dewey, Mayor, Berwyn Heights

Gregg Dotson, Councilmember, North Beach

Jane Hagen, Councilmember, North Beach

Jeannine James, Mayor, La Plata

Jennifer Jennings, Community Health, Fitness, and Aquatics Supervisor, Annapolis

Carletta Lundy, Councilmember, Bladensburg

Robert Marsili, Director of Public Works, College Park

David Martin, Councilmember, Havre de Grace

Michael Mezey, Council Chair, Friendship Heights

Denise Mitchell, Councilmember, College Park

David C. Morris, Chief of Police, Riverdale Park

Chris Nevin, Mayor, Hampstead

Michael O'Connor, Mayor, Frederick

Kimberly Rau, Clerk to the Council, Laurel

Laila Riazi, Mayor, Cheverly

Laurie-Anne Sayles, Councilmember, Gaithersburg

Jeremiah Schofield, Councilmember, Sykesville

Ron Sitoula, Vice Mayor, Indian Head

Brad Wantz, Mayor, Taneytown

Robert "Bob" Willey, Mayor, Easton

## **Budget and State Aid (A)**

[HB 612](#) / [SB 496](#) - Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act (A-4) (A-10) (A-18) (A-28)

[SB 901](#) - Public Safety - Emergency Management - Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund (A-112)

## **Taxes (B)**

[HB 158](#)/[SB 593](#) - Property Tax – Homeowners’ Property Tax Credit – Calculation and Refunds (B-1)

[HB 1311](#) / [SB 269](#) - Property Tax Exemption - Disabled Active Duty Service Members, Disabled Veterans, and Surviving Spouses – Refund (B-2)

[HB 1137](#) / [SB 887](#) Property Tax Credit – Business Entities – State of Emergency (B-3)

[HB 852](#) - Property Tax - Tax Sales - Homeowner Protection Program (B-3)

[HB 497](#) - Property Tax Credit - Urban Agricultural Property - Repeal of Repayment Requirement (B-3)

[HB 252](#) - Tax Sales – Owner–Occupied Residential Property (B-5)

[HB 612](#) / [SB 496](#) - Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act (B-6) (B-11)

[HB 319](#) / [SB 133](#) - Local Tax Relief for Working Families Act of 2021 (B-10)

## **State Government (C)**

[HB 113](#) / [SB 314](#) - Board of Revenue Estimates and Bureau of Revenue Estimates - Organization and Operations (C-4)

[HB 97](#) / [SB 66](#) - Department of Housing and Community Development - Office of Digital Inclusion - Established (Digital Connectivity Act of 2021) (C-7)

[HB 38](#) / [SB 49](#) - State Government - Department of Information Technology - Cybersecurity (C-7)

[HB 23](#) / [SB 234](#) - Personal Information - State and Local Agencies - Restrictions on Access (Maryland Driver Privacy Act) (C-8)

[HB 13](#) - Influence on Collective Bargaining - Prohibition on Use of Public Funds (C-9)

[HB 120](#) / [SB 178](#) - Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 - Search Warrants and Inspection of Records Relating to Police Misconduct (Anton's Law) (C-9)

[HB 92](#) - Procurement - Invasive and Nonnative Plant Species - Prohibition on Use of State Funds (C-21)

[HB 73](#) / [SB 710](#) - State and Local Government and Private Employers – Teleworking (C-26)

[HB 877](#) / [SB 764](#) - Workgroup on Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Commercial Spaces (C-30)

## **Local Government (D)**

[HB 517](#) / [SB 319](#) - Clean Energy Loan Program - Remediation and Resiliency (D-2)

[HB 73](#) / [SB 710](#) - State and Local Government and Private Employers – Teleworking (D-3)

[HB 90](#) / [SB 687](#) - State and Local Housing Programs – Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (D-3)

[HB 13](#) - Influence on Collective Bargaining - Prohibition on Use of Public Funds (D-3)

[HB 563](#) / [SB 338](#) - Local Government – Animal Control Facilities – Adoption Fee Waiver for Veterans (Pets for Vets Act of 2021) (D-3)

[HB 584](#) / [SB 508](#) - Public Utilities – Net Energy Metering (No reference in 90 Day Report)

## **Crimes, Corrections, and Public Safety (E)**

[SB 71](#) - Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 - Body-Worn Cameras, Employee Programs, and Use of Force (E-2) (E-5) (E-22)

[HB 670](#) - Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 - Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures (E-17)

[HB 120](#) / [SB 178](#) - Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 - Search Warrants and Inspection of Records Relating to Police Misconduct (Anton's Law) (E-23)

[SB 156](#) - Public Safety - Law Enforcement - Veterinary Care of Retired Law Enforcement K-9s Act (E-26)

[HB 1248](#) - Public Safety - Police Officer - Data Collection and Reporting (E-26)

[SB 901](#) - Public Safety - Emergency Management - Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund (E-30)

## **Courts and Civil Proceedings (F)**

[HB 612](#) / [SB 496](#) - Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act (F-3) (F-10)

[HB 290](#) / [SB 455](#) - Employment Discrimination - Time for Filing Complaints (F-9)

## **Transportation and Motor Vehicles (G)**

[HB 1328](#) / [SB 824](#) - Economic Development - Broadband Providers - Joint Trenching and Fee (Building Out Broadband Act of 2021) (G-2)

[HB 80](#) / [SB 359](#) - Department of Transportation - Urban Tree Program – Establishment (G-2)

## **Business and Economic Issues (H)**

[HB 294](#) / [SB 93](#) - Business Occupations and Professions - Architects - Scope of Licensure (H-1)

[HB 261](#) / [SB 135](#) - Business Regulation – Battery–Charged Fence Security Systems – Regulation (H-3)

[HB 376](#) / [SB 153](#) - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Municipal Electric Utilities (H-6)

[HB 612](#) / [SB 496](#) - Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act (H-7) (H-11) (H-16) (H-23) (H-28)

[HB 97](#) / [SB 66](#) - Department of Housing and Community Development - Office of Digital Inclusion - Established (Digital Connectivity Act of 2021) (H-10) (H-26)

[HB 1328](#) / [SB 824](#) - Economic Development - Broadband Providers - Joint Trenching and Fee (Building Out Broadband Act of 2021) (H-11)

[HB 310](#) / [SB 323](#) - Maryland Arts Capital Grant Program (H-22)

[SB 256](#) - Arts and Entertainment Districts – Artistic Work and Arts and Entertainment Enterprise – Definitions (H-23)

[HB 90](#) / [SB 687](#) - State and Local Housing Programs – Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (H-24)

[HB 877](#) / [SB 764](#) - Workgroup on Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Commercial Spaces (H-25)

[HB 908](#) / [SB 816](#) – Unemployment Insurance - Employer Contributions and Reimbursement Payments (H-28)

[HB 581](#) / [SB 486](#) - Labor and Employment - Employment Standards During an Emergency (Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act) (H-30)

[HB 73](#) / [SB 710](#) - State and Local Government and Private Employers – Teleworking (H-31)

## **Health and Human Services (J)**

[HB 836](#) / [SB 741](#) - COVID-19 Testing, Contact Tracing, and Vaccination Act of 2021 (J-1) (J-25)

[HB 612](#) / [SB 496](#) - Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act (J-2) (J-27)

[HB 1349](#) / [SB 777](#) - Public Health – Maryland Prenatal and Infant Care Grant Program Fund (J-6)

[HB 108](#) / [SB 286](#) - Behavioral Health Crisis Response Services – Modifications (J-7)

[HB 601](#) / [SB 964](#) - Pharmacy Benefits Managers – Revisions (J-26)

## **Natural Resources, Environment, and Agriculture (K)**

[HB 991](#) - Tree Solutions Now Act of 2021 (K-1) (K-8) (K-14)

[HB 80](#) / [SB 359](#) - Department of Transportation - Urban Tree Program – Establishment (K-8)

[HB 507](#) / [SB 119](#) - Clean Water Commerce Act of 2021 (K-9) (K-14)

[HB 94](#) - Environment - Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund - Use of Fund (K-10)

[HB 295](#) / [SB 227](#) - Water Pollution - Stormwater Management Regulations and Watershed Implementation Plans - Review and Update (K-11)

[HB 1207](#) / [SB 674](#) - Environment - Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities – Reform (K-13)

[HB 391](#)/[SB 716](#) - Solid Waste Management – Prohibition on Releasing a Balloon Into the Atmosphere (K-13)

[HB 92](#) - Procurement - Invasive and Nonnative Plant Species - Prohibition on Use of State Funds (K-16)

## **Education (L)**

[HB 612](#) / [SB 496](#) - Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act (L-17)

[HB 670](#) - Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 - Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures (L-26)

[HB 836](#) / [SB 741](#) - COVID-19 Testing, Contact Tracing, and Vaccination Act of 2021 (L-28)

[HB 944](#) / [SB 711](#) - Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program – Established (L-31)