



February 17, 2014

General Assembly Session – Busy Week Ahead

As the 2014 legislative session approaches the halfway point, MML's legislative team is in high gear. The MML Legislative Committee met for four consecutive weeks beginning in mid-January, setting actions in motion on a plethora of bills. The League will be submitting testimony on over a dozen bills this week, including bills that would allow local governments to impose a vehicle registration fee for transportation needs (SB 629), partially restore local government highway user revenues legislation (SB 664), establish a property tax credit for upper story commercial rehabilitation (SB 605), make changes to speed monitoring programs (HB 929), address municipal elections and campaign finance reports (HB 827) significantly restrict a municipality's ability to establish property tax classifications (HB 492), address local government street lighting issues (HB 729), reduce speed limits and mandate crosswalks in areas of high pedestrian traffic (HB 873), require an agenda under the Open Meetings Act for all public meetings (SB 847), encourage the State to more fairly distribute wastewater treatment plant upgrade monies (HB 937), phase out local electrician licensing authority (SB 877), impose a fee on plastic bags (HB 718), and establish a statewide interoperability radio control board (SB 338).

To view the League's position on these, and other bills considered by the MML Legislative Committee, please visit MML's website at www.mdmunicipal.org. To view the actual legislation, simply click on the bill number. Please contact a member of MML's legislative staff if additional information is needed.

Municipal Highway User Revenue Monies in the Budget

MML has been closely monitoring the additional \$16 million in transportation monies provided to municipalities in a second round of funding included in the FY 2015 State budget. Although it seems as though the funding is safe so far, nothing is ever secure until the budget is finally passed by the General Assembly in early April. Therefore, we urge our membership to continue to reach out to members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and House Appropriations Committee to ensure that they are aware of how important this additional funding is to your city or town. Committee membership contact information may be found [here](#).

Governor Martin O'Malley Attends MML Legislative Committee Meeting in Annapolis

On Wednesday, February 12, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley attended MML's Legislative Committee meeting in Annapolis. The Governor met with municipal officials on the Committee and spoke briefly about his Administration's priorities for his final year in Annapolis. Governor

O'Malley also responded to a number of questions from Committee members, discussing topics such as public safety, education, and transportation funding.

The Governor reflected fondly on his time as Mayor of Baltimore City, commenting that if he had the option to be a governor or a mayor, he'd "choose mayor any day." The Committee thanked the Governor for holding the door to his office open to municipal officials for the past eight years of his governorship and all expressed appreciation for the close relationships built during that time.

MML Board of Directors Hold Winter Meeting

The MML Board of Directors met on Saturday, January 25 at MML headquarters in Annapolis and took the following actions:

- Agreed to donate \$100 to the Maryland Municipal Clerks Association (MMCA) to help defray costs of sponsoring the 2014 Region II IIMC meeting in Bowie.
- Amended the MML Employee Handbook of Personnel Policies to permit partial use of a leave day for hazardous weather conditions.
- Approved proposed amendments to the Carroll County MML Chapter Bylaws
- Adopted the 2014 Implementation Work Plan for MML's Strategic Plan.

The next scheduled meeting of the MML Board is Saturday, April 26 in Annapolis.

MML Elects Bowell and Dotson to the Board

The MML Board recently filled two vacant Board seats by electing Gregory "Gregg" Dotson, Council Vice-President, North Beach as a member at-large and John "Mike" Bowell, Commissioner, Queenstown as the new District 2 Vice President. The vacancies occurred as a result of municipal elections held in November. Both new members will serve until the annual MML Convention in June.

Training Grant Notifications Distributed

A limited number of training grants are available to officials from municipalities that have not been represented at the MML convention in the last two years.

Eligible cities/towns should receive a notice and training grant application from MML President, Carl A. Anderton the week of February 17. If you believe your municipality is eligible and you're not listed below, please contact [MML](#). For more information on training grant criteria, visit www.mdmunicipal.org/grant.

2014 Eligible Municipalities

Accident, Brookeville, Brookview, Chevy Chase, Sec. 3, Church Creek, Clear Spring, Deer Park, Eldorado, Henderson, Highland Beach, Hillsboro, Keedysville, Kitzmiller, Mardela Springs, North East, Oakmont, Pittsville, Port Tobacco, Preston, Rosemont, Sharpsburg, Sharptown, Smithsburg, Templeville, Willards, Woodsboro

MML Convention Hotel Reservations

MML e-mailed information to all member municipalities on January 17 regarding hotel accommodations in conjunction with MML's annual convention which will be held June 8-11, 2014 at the Convention Center in Ocean City. MML made arrangements for blocs of rooms at reduced rates at nine hotels (Clarion Fontainebleau, The Grand, Hampton Inn, Hilton Suites Ocean City Oceanfront, Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Princess Bayside, Princess Royale, Quality Inn Oceanfront). We recommend that you make your reservations now to be assured a room in your preferred hotel. Remember to mention that you are with the Maryland Municipal League convention when making your reservation ensure you receive the reduced room rates. You will find links to the convention hotels [here](#).

Vote Berlin America's Coolest Small Town

The Town of Berlin is only town in Maryland in the running to be America's Coolest Small Town. Berlin is currently in first place in the final round. Support your fellow municipality by casting your vote. Click [here](#) for details. Voting closes February 25.

Free Technical Assistance to Small Community Wastewater and Water Systems

The Maryland Center for Environmental Training (MCET) is providing FREE technical assistance (TA) to small community wastewater and water systems throughout the State. The majority of this assistance is accomplished on-site, working directly with superintendents and operators to optimize plant performance and insure regulatory compliance. In addition, the TA program provides valuable input to management for planning and cost effective Operation & Maintenance (O&M) of utility systems.

In recent years much of the TA related to wastewater systems has involved assisting municipalities as they move to Enhanced Nutrient Removal. This TA has included O&M input during design, development of process control programs during system start-up, staff training, and intense focus on consistently meeting ENR performance requirements. In addition, the TA program assists existing small community wastewater and water systems in addressing all issues associated with maintaining a cost-effective operation and insuring regulatory compliance.

The TA program is funded by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for qualified communities.

To request technical assistance please fill in the TA form, found at www.mcet.org under Technical Assistance, and send it to MCET or call 301/934-7500 for assistance.

DHCD to Hold Public Hearings on 2013 Annual Action Plan

Over the next few weeks, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will hold a series of public hearings on the development of the department's new draft Annual Action Plan for 2014, which will update the State's Consolidated Plan.

The Consolidated Plan is a five-year planning document required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that sets out overall statewide goals and priorities for

housing, community development, and economic development activities. The five-year plan is updated annually to determine how the state will carry out the long-term goals within the plan.

For further information about the focus of DHCD's new draft Annual Action Plan, please contact John Greiner, Housing Policy Officer at DHCD, at 410/514-7191 or greiner@dhcd.state.md.us. For hearing dates on the new draft, see below:

Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

Caroline County Central Library
Small Meeting Room 850 100 Market Street
Denton, Maryland

Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Maryland DHCD Headquarters
First Floor Conference Room
100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland

Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.

Prince Frederick Library
Meeting Room 2
850 Costley Way
Prince Frederick, Maryland

Friday, February 28, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

Allegany County Office Complex
Commissioner's Conference Room, 212
701 Kelly Road
Cumberland, Maryland

MML Municipal Achievement and Lifetime Award Entries Due March 1, 2014
Details can be found [HERE](#)

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, RFP, 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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