



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 15, 2022

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

Bill: _____ HB 537 – Housing and Community Development – Homeowner's Extreme Weather Mitigation and Preparation Grant Program

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 537.

This measure creates a Homeowner's Extreme Weather Mitigation and Preparation Grant Program in the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to assist homeowners, nonprofits, and local governments in preparing and repairing residential properties. The goal of this program is to mitigate water damage caused to residential homes by extreme weather.

This is an important and admirable goal. MML recognizes the effect climate change has on our communities across the State, and our municipal leaders are very concerned for the health and safety of their constituents. MML adopted climate change mitigation as a strategic initiative for 2022 in part to help address the dangers of extreme weather. Creating a program that local governments can access to help support and prepare our residents is a pragmatic approach, and we appreciate that local governments are included.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 537 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Suggested Amendment Language for House Bill 93

1) On page 3, strike lines 26-27.

2) On page 4, line 2, add (1) after “(D)”

3) On page 4, after line 6, insert:

(2) A candidate that reasonably expects its donations or disbursements to be less than \$25,000 is exempt from the requirements of (B)(1).

(3) A candidate that has not filed a report under (B) (1) because it did not reasonably expect its donations or disbursement to be less than \$25,000 must file an initial report within 30 days of reaching \$25,000 of either activity.

(The language in the suggested (B)(2) and (3) is modified from the IRS 8871 filing instructions.)