



Maryland Municipal League  
*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

## TESTIMONY

March 6, 2024

**Committee:** House Appropriations

**Bill:** HB 842 - Environmental Justice - Investment in Infrastructure Construction Projects

**Position:** Unfavorable

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League respectfully opposes House Bill 842, which sets new requirements for state agencies receiving and administering federal funds to local governments.

Under this proposal, a state agency would be required to allocate 40% of the funds to infrastructure construction projects in overburdened/underserved communities, and another 40% to infrastructure construction projects in communities of color and communities with a high percentage of low- to moderate-income households.

While the League appreciates the sponsors' intent and agrees that environmental justice is an important goal, allocating federal funds in this manner divests funding opportunities for other valuable and viable projects that may not meet these limited criteria. Federal financial support is both limited and in high demand: local governments cannot afford for this resource to be diluted.

For these reasons, the League respectfully requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 842.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Theresa Kuhns

Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.

Bill Jorch

Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer

Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

Director, Public Policy & Research

Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs