



MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY
PARK & RECREATION ADMINISTRATORS
(MACPRA)

**SB680 State and Local Parks – Playground Accessibility – Communication
Boards**

Requiring the Department of Natural Resources and local governing bodies to construct communication boards in each public playground;

February 28, 2022

MACPRA Position: OPPOSE

The Maryland Association of County Park and Recreation Administrators recognizes the importance of inclusivity in State parks and locally operated playgrounds and parks. While the general purpose of SB680 aims to improve playground access through mandated communication boards, MACPRA opposes the legislation as written primarily because the prescribed mandate is funded through Program Open Space.

Program Open Space is a vital program for State and local agencies to address many different types of park needs. For smaller jurisdictions, Program Open Space funding represents the bulk of capital funding available for development and rehabilitation projects.

Though communication boards can be a valuable asset for local playgrounds, this mandate would be very expensive, costing up to \$2,000 per board. MACPRA believes that Program Open Space funds should not be restricted by legislated mandates and should remain in control of local jurisdictions through long-established processes that are already in place.

MACPRA urges the Committee to give an **UNFAVORABLE** report on this bill.

The Maryland Association of County Park & Recreation Administrators (MACPRA) is an affiliate of the Maryland Association of Counties and represents the Parks and Recreation departments of all 23 counties and Baltimore City – the professionals engaged in the delivery of Parks and Recreation services throughout Maryland.