



## **House Bill 274**

### *Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**  
**WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Health and Government Operations  
Committee

Date: February 21, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 274 **WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill would create a task force to examine how best to reduce emergency department wait times. Counties seek representation on this body via a bill amendment.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, Maryland's healthcare system has been shaken to its core. Like many areas in the public sector, healthcare providers are contending with a vast array of systemic challenges, including recruitment and retention and supply chain disruptions. Counties are a major stakeholder in the healthcare space, operating or funding a significant amount of emergency medical services transit and providing a large amount of community screening and preventative care.

As major stakeholders across multiple components of both emergency service and public infrastructure, counties ask for representation on the Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times. Long wait times for emergency departments have a cascading effect on other county medical and emergency services, and therefore counties remain committed to finding a solution and seek to have input as a partner in this important endeavor.

Counties fully support the efforts of HB 274 and ask to be included within the task force. Accordingly, MACo urges a report of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**, to add one member representing county government to the task force.