



**MARYLAND**  
*Association of*  
**COUNTIES**

## Senate Bill 1033

### *Maryland Building Performance Standards - Local Requests for Guidance - Religious Considerations*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Date: April 2, 2024

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 1033. This bill requires the Department of Labor, on the request of a county, to provide guidance on the implementation and enforcement of the Maryland Building Performance Standards in relation to any religious observance, practice, or belief.

As the unit of government closest to Maryland residents, counties serve as the primary touch point for community development and for building permit approvals. This means that often, county-level public servants are interpreting and implementing state policies, especially policies aimed at mitigating against climate change. There are certain circumstances, though, where certain policies may be competing, and it may be untenable to proceed without a State entity's interpretation. SB 1033 simply establishes that process, should there be future issues regarding the enforcement of building standards and certain religious practices.

SB 1033 is common sense legislation that ensures certain state policies can be carried out with balance and diversity in mind. For this reason, MACo urges the Committee to issue SB 1033 a **FAVORABLE** report.