



**2024 SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL:** SB 1056 – Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices – Revisions (Tobacco Retail Modernization Act of 2024)  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Finance Committee  
**POSITION:** Letter of Support With Amendments  
**Bill ANALYSIS:** SB 1056 would prohibit licensees that sell cigarettes, other tobacco products, or electronic smoking devices at retail from displaying those items for sale unless located behind a counter, require verification of a date of birth for certain individuals before sale, and make other changes to current law.

**POSITION RATIONALE:** The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) supports SB 1056 with amendments. This bill recognizes the current challenges of enforcing existing tobacco/vaping regulations and the persistently high use of these products by teens. Public health officials agree with the value of more effective enforcement to reduce underage sales of traditional tobacco and vape products. Several times during recent years, inspections have revealed that greater than 20% of Maryland retailers have sold vape and tobacco products to underage purchasers. Local health departments (LHDs) are involved with the inspections of these retailers related to tobacco compliance enforcement.

To better fund the staffing needs required for additional inspections, MACHO recommends:

**Deletion of the text on Page 4, Lines 5-7 and replacing it with the following:**

- (ii) \$225 TO THE COUNTY’S LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
- (iii) \$50 TO THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH’S PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION ADMINISTRATION**

Enforcement is statutorily delegated to County Health Officers and law enforcement personnel, not county governments. In jurisdictions where law enforcement takes a role in tobacco/vape enforcement, it is through contracts with local health departments. To accomplish the goal of reducing sales to underage individuals, additional revenue generated by the licensing changes in HB 1180 should go primarily to LHDs. It is reasonable to allocate a portion of new revenue to the Maryland Department of Health to fund better coordination of statewide enforcement efforts, provide technical assistance to LHDs, and increase capacity for MDH to work with the Maryland State Department of Education to reduce vaping in schools.

Because local health departments are at the center of enforcement in communities across the state, MACHO asks that a Health Officer be included in all subcommittee discussions of SB 1056.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this letter of support with amendments for SB 1056. For more information or for a Health Officer representative for future subcommittee discussions, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at [rmaiora1@jhu.edu](mailto:rmaiora1@jhu.edu) or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*