



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 774

Public Safety – Maryland Entertainment District Security Grant Program

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judiciary Committee

Date: March 21, 2024

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 774. This bill would fund heightened security needs in areas where there is a high density of bars, entertainment, and foot traffic. The funding is intended to be provided through the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victims Services to local governments, non-profits, and community organizations.

Vibrant downtown main streets, special event areas, and arts districts are all ways local governments attract businesses, residents, and tourists to popular locations. These areas are often complemented with bars, restaurants, live entertainment, and a high density of visitors, which naturally demand an added layer of security. This bill recognizes the efforts local governments must make in bringing these districts to life for community members and tourists by helping to make sure patrons can enjoy the activities with a sense of safety and security.

Counties believe this is a thoughtful approach to making sure residents can enjoy events and activities in a safe and responsible manner and help drive areas of heightened economic vitality. For this reason, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 774.