



Senate Bill 26

*Labor and Employment - Occupational Safety and Health - Revisions
(Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act)*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Appropriations Committee

Date: March 26, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 26 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill establishes the Public Employees' Safety and Health Unit in the Division of Labor and Industry to administer and enforce certain duties regarding the oversight of certain public bodies, including local governments.

Counties appreciate the sponsor's willingness to work with counties. Counties sought provisions to provide flexibility in how local governments communicate workplace safety information to employees. By making citations and reports available to all employees, local governments can ensure all employees are informed without imposing unnecessary fiscal and administrative burdens. This approach balances compliance with workplace safety requirements and practical implementation for local governments.

Counties recognize and broadly support the intent of SB 26. This bill represents a meaningful step toward safer workplaces for public employees – a cause counties wholeheartedly support. **MACo respectfully urges the Committee to conform SB 26 to the House version of its crossfile, HB 176, as the House approach more thoroughly balances workplace safety goals with practical implementation for local governments.** The House version (HB 176) removes excessive penalty sections from the bill.

By refining the bill to address practical implementation concerns, its goals can be achieved without creating undue financial or administrative burdens on local governments. For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 26 a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report to conform the bill to mirror HB 176 as passed by the House.