



January 29, 2025

Senate Bill 102

Insurance Pooling - Public Entity - Definition

Senate Finance Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 102 – Insurance Pooling - Public Entity - Definition. This Bill clarifies that counties may enter into pooling agreements with Resilience Authorities for the purpose of providing group health benefits to eligible employees.

Anne Arundel County has a longstanding practice, authorized in state law, of establishing health insurance pooling agreements with political subdivisions of the state, units of state or local government, and certain qualifying nonprofit corporations. The County currently has agreements with organizations including the Arundel Community Development Services, Inc., the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation, the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation, and others.

During the 2020 session, the Maryland General Assembly passed SB457 to enable local jurisdictions to form Resilience Authorities. These nonprofit, independent bodies can help cities and counties identify, obtain, and allocate financing for large scale infrastructure projects. As the first multi-jurisdictional resiliency authority in the United States, established by public local law in 2021, the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County seeks to provide an efficient and effective mechanism for planning, funding and completing infrastructure projects that mitigate current and anticipated effects of climate change.

In the process of establishing a health insurance pooling agreement with the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, the County Attorney identified a grey area in state law as to the Authority’s status as a “public entity” qualified to participate in a pooling agreement. SB102 would resolve this ambiguity and expressly allow pooling agreements. In addition to benefitting Anne Arundel County and the Resilience Authority of Annapolis Anne Arundel County, SB102 would provide the same clarification for Resilience Authorities established or contemplated in other jurisdictions.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 102.