



House Bill 176

Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act

MACo Position: **LETTER OF
INFORMATION**

To: Finance Committee

Date: March 25, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) offers a **Letter of Information** on HB 176.

Counties greatly appreciate the sponsor's work in addressing county concerns. 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. HB 176, as amended, also requires the Correctional Training Commission to adopt regulations for the training, issuance, and use of body-worn cameras. This bill extends the current requirements for body-worn camera programs to a local detention center in the event they adopt a body-worn camera program. Importantly, it clarifies that local correctional facilities are not required to adopt body-worn cameras.

The bill, as amended, remedies county concerns by addressing provisions that were too prescriptive and duplicative. **Additionally, the House version removes excessive penalty sections from the bill.** 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 HB 176. This bill represents a meaningful step toward safer workplaces for public employees – a cause counties wholeheartedly support. By refining the bill to address practical implementation concerns, its goals have been achieved without creating undue financial or administrative burdens on local governments. Counties respectfully urge the Committee to maintain the House version of HB 176, as it thoughtfully balances workplace safety goals with practical implementation for local governments.