

**SB119 1-22-2026 Conf and MACHO (002) - SEN FIN - 1**

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Position: FAV



Affiliates of  
The Maryland Association of Counties, Inc.

January 22, 2026

TO: Members of the Finance Committee  
FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors  
Maryland Association of County Health Officers  
RE: **SB119 – State Board of Environmental Health Specialists – Sunset Extension**

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (Conference) provides this letter of **Support** for **SB119** in their capacities as the State's twenty-four Environmental Health Directors who carry out delegated authorities from both the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Maryland Department of Health (MDH). The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) joins the Conference in **Support** of SB 119 in their capacities as the State's twenty-four Local Health Officers who have the authorities for the delegation of work by both MDE and MDH and oversee the scope of work of the Environmental Health Directors and their staff.

The role of the Board of Environmental Health Specialists (Board) is vital in aiding in the protection of public health through promotion and management of Environmental Health licensing standards. SB 119 would continue the Board's important work and enable the local health departments to carry out their delegated responsibilities on behalf of the state agencies and ensure qualified, licensed staff to do that work.

For these reasons, the Conference and MACHO provides this LOS for SB 119.  
*This communication reflects the position of the Conference and MACHO.*

For more information:  
Conference Contact:  
Michael Davis, President  
Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors  
Email: [mjdavis@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mjdavis@howardcountymd.gov)

MACHO Contact:  
Ruth Maiorana, Executive Director  
Maryland Association of County Health Officers  
Email: [rmaioral@jhu.edu](mailto:rmaioral@jhu.edu)

**SB 119- FIN- MDH - LOS.pdf**

Uploaded by: Meghan Lynch

Position: FAV



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

January 27, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: Senate Bill 119 – State Board of Environmental Health Specialists – Sunset Extension – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 119– State Board of Environmental Health Specialists – Sunset Extension.

SB 119 extends the date of the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists to July 1, 2032, in accordance with the provisions of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law).

Extending the termination provisions of the Environmental Health Specialists Board will ensure they can continue to fulfill their responsibilities such as credentialing and licensing qualified and competent professionals, and disciplining licensed professionals found to have violated their respective rules of conduct.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Health respectfully requests a favorable vote on SB 119. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director of Governmental Affairs at [Meghan.Lynch@maryland.gov](mailto:Meghan.Lynch@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D  
Secretary of Health

**HB0216-JUD-SUPP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB0216**

January 27, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 216 – Criminal Law – Benefits Exploitation

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill 216.

HB 216 clarifies that exploitation related to another person's government benefits is a criminal act that should be prohibited in the State of Maryland. The bill also clearly defines the methods by which bad actors exploit others for their own personal gain, including coercion, deception, and isolation. This bill is critical to ensuring older adults and persons with disabilities, who are often targeted by this type of exploitation, are protected from this type of exploitation and trafficking.

HB 216 will strengthen our ability to protect residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The Baltimore City Health Department's Division of Aging and Community Support serves as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for Baltimore City. The agency also houses the Long-term Care Ombudsman program, which advocates for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Our Ombudsman staff report that some of these facilities are taking advantage of their residents' vulnerability and isolation and, through coercion and deception, are gaining control of their benefit payments. By defining forms of exploitation and deception and creating criminal penalties for them, SB 140 will strengthen the ability of our agency and our law enforcement partners to protect the rights of these vulnerable residents.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 216.

**SB119 - FIN - Environmental Health Bd - LOS.docx.p**

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: FAV



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

Board of Environmental Health Specialists  
4201 Patterson Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21215

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### 2026 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO: SB 119**

**COMMITTEE: FINANCE**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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**TITLE:** State Board of Environmental Health Specialists – Sunset Extension

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This bill, as written, would continue the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists (the “Board”) in accordance with the provision of the Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) extending the Board’s existence until July 1, 2032.

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:** The Board supports SB 119 and currently licenses 527 Environmental Health Specialists, 77 Environmental Health Specialists-in-Training, and has certified 129 other individuals as eligible to work in the field. The passage of this bill will ensure the continuation of the Board’s mission to license qualified individuals, verify credentials, adopt standards of practice, confirm continuing education requirements, and investigate and resolve complaints. The Board’s staff is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the Board and the coordination of administrative activities with other government agencies. The Board shares its financial, legislative and regulatory, information technology, and investigative staff with other Health Occupation Boards under the Maryland Department of Health and is general funded

A licensed Environmental Health Specialist professional is on the front lines and plays a key role in protecting public health by helping to maintain a safe and sustainable environment. Key program areas include food safety and security, safety and oversight of community and private well and septic systems, oversight of public pools and spas, water quality at bathing beaches, investigation of rabies cases and possibly other disease vectors, inspection of youth camps, and other issues pertaining to environmental health as they arise.

For these reasons, the Board supports SB 119 and requests a favorable report. If you require additional information, please contact Leigh Broderick, Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Environmental Health Specialists at [leigh.broderick1@maryland.gov](mailto:leigh.broderick1@maryland.gov) or (410) 764-3512; or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison, at [lillian.reese@maryland.gov](mailto:lillian.reese@maryland.gov), or 443-794-4757.