



## House Bill 1134

### *Circuit Courts and District Court of Maryland Employees – Collective Bargaining*

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Appropriations Committees

Date: March 3, 2020

From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 1134 as it would have a substantial and uncontrollable impact on county government budgets.

HB 1134 would establish collective bargaining for Circuit Court and District Court clerical, administrative, constabulary, maintenance, and housekeeping staff. It also creates a state judicial employees labor relations board as an independent unit of state government that is responsible for administering and enforcing the provisions of the bill.

The move to collective bargaining outlined in this bill will lead to unknown and potentially significant cost increases to counties who share funding responsibilities with the State for the Circuit Courts. There is one circuit court in each county and according to a 2018 annual report, counties fund approximately 937 Circuit Court personnel. Additionally, despite counties' role in supporting Circuit Courts, this bill would not provide any opportunity for county governments to participate in collective bargaining negotiations.

HB 1134 would lead to unknown and unmanageable costs to counties. As partners in funding the Circuit Courts, county governments reserve the ability to have input in potentially costly shifts to their operations. For these reasons, MACo urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 1134.