



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 203

*Community Parks and Playgrounds Program -
Baltimore County and Howard County - Expansion*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: February 21, 2020

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 203. The bill would allow Baltimore and Howard Counties to receive grants from the community parks and playgrounds fund. Both counties do not have municipalities within their boundaries, leaving a large section of Maryland without access to these funds.

The Community Parks and Playgrounds Program administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides \$2.5 million in grants on a competitive basis for approved projects to local governments every year. These grants may go towards improvements to existing parks, land acquisition for new parks, the development of new parks, and playground equipment. Applicants are limited to one grant application package per round of grant competition and must prioritize their list of projects. This allows DNR to consider all applicant submissions equally and award grants to the worthiest projects.

HB 203 would simply allow two jurisdictions that do not have municipalities to submit applications for this competitive process. Accordingly, MACo asks the Committee to issue a FAVORABLE report on HB 203.