



**2021 SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL:** HB 1043 – Local Health Services – Funding and Infrastructure

**COMMITTEE:** House Appropriations Committee

**POSITION:** Letter of Information

**BILL ANALYSIS:** HB 1043 would require, for fiscal year 2023, at least \$67,000,000 in the annual budget bill for local health services and require the Maryland Department of Health to develop a plan to provide local health departments with uniform software for certain purposes.

**POSITION RATIONALE:** The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) is very appreciative of the bill sponsor's concerns for local public health. HB 1043 would take an important step toward restoring local health department (LHD) Core Funding that was slashed during the 2008-2009 recession. However, HB 1123 also addresses the same goal, but at funding levels that will go further toward allowing LHDs to restore critical staffing positions and make greatly needed upgrades in information technology.

HB 1123 and its Senate cross file (SB 563) have already received support from MACHO at their respective hearings. SB 563 is sponsored by the Senate President Pro Tem. The COVID pandemic has made clear the importance of a strong public health infrastructure at the local level.

Although our membership cannot state strongly enough our gratitude toward Del. Rosenberg for introducing legislation to improve LHD funding, HB 1123 is in the best long-term interest of restoring the safety net of Maryland's local public health network.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this letter of information for HB 1043. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at [rmaiora1@jhu.edu](mailto:rmaiora1@jhu.edu) or 410-937-1433. *This communication reflects the position of MACHO.*