



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 516

State Board of Environmental Health Specialists - Fees - General Fund

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committee

Date: February 16, 2021

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) SUPPORTS SB 516. The bill would help ensure stable and predictable funding for the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists. The Board is responsible for licensing Local Environmental Health Specialists in the state.

Licensed Environmental Health Specialists in Maryland provide essential services to their communities including oversight of recreation venues, ensuring food safety preparation standards are upheld, and ensuring safe water supply. The Board ensures that these professionals are properly trained and licensed, an underpinning of public trust in their important functions.

The Board has seen rises in ongoing costs associated with licensure and is facing financial challenges. Its special fund status is not self-sustaining and because of its limited membership, this important organization faces undue risk. SB 516 would return the Board's financial support to the General Fund, where it was until 2012. This would provide a higher level of certainty to these professionals, and their service that plays a critical role in ensuring the health and welfare of communities in the state. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 516.