



**2021 SESSION
POSITION PAPER**

BILL: HB 757 – Local Health Departments and Community Action Agencies –
Feminine Hygiene Products

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations Committee

POSITION: Letter of Opposition

BILL ANALYSIS: HB 757 would require local health departments and community action agencies to provide sufficient feminine hygiene products to Medical Assistance enrollees and prohibit them from requiring payment for those products. No funding source is described.

POSITION

RATIONALE: The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) reluctantly opposes HB 757 as no funding source is described that would enable local health departments (or community action agencies) to provide these products to the intended population.

Although public health professionals understand the well-intended goal behind this proposal, local health departments would be forced to take funding and staff time away from other critical programs serving low-income residents to meet the requirements of this bill.

Costs of HB 757 will include the materials themselves, staff time to order and dispense products, information technology resources to track inventory, and storage costs in local health department buildings, that in many cases, already lack space for current needs.

MACHO encourages consideration of alternative means of providing feminine hygiene products for low income Marylanders through volunteer organizations.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers submits this letter of opposition to HB 757. For more information, please contact Ruth Maiorana, MACHO Executive Director at rmaiora1@jhu.edu or 410-937-1433.

This communication reflects the position of MACHO.