



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 1013

Public Safety - Safer Communities Fund and Task Force - Establishment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Appropriations Committee

Date: March 8, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1013. This bill would establish a fund available to local governments in support of programs preventing a police response to low-level crimes and noncriminal incidences.

Many counties have already begun studying and implementing alternatives to law enforcement to address crime. Several of the initiatives supported by HB 1013 are already underway in our counties, including the deployment of behavioral health crisis response units and the construction of lighting infrastructure and safer public passages. This bill would have the added effect of potentially reducing the burden placed on stretched county law enforcement.

Altogether, as the State and its counties shift toward alternative responses to crime, HB 1013 would bolster current and future efforts to protect Marylanders. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 1013 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.