



## House Bill 1278

### *Public Safety - Interjurisdictional Policing Grant Program*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Appropriations Committee

Date: March 15, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber and Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1278 as it provides counties with valuable public safety resources to fight crime.

Communities that align or straddle county borders are often affected by crime issues that cross those jurisdictional boundaries. It is important that law enforcement in those counties can successfully work together to tackle interjurisdictional crime. Interjurisdictional policing agreements provide a framework for collaboration and a means of leveraging limited resources.

HB 1278 establishes an Interjurisdictional Policing Grant Program administered by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. The purpose of the program is to provide grants to counties to defray costs associated with establishing and supporting agreements between two or more counties to collaborate on interjurisdictional law enforcement activities. The bill requires the governor to appropriate \$3.5 million annually in the state budget to fund the program.

Grant awards must be proportionate to the population and geographic size of the counties applying for the grants and the scope of the overall agreement. If the interjurisdictional agreement spans multiple years, the grants may be spread across multiple fiscal years. To ensure there is proper accountability, partnering counties who must jointly apply for the grant must report annually on the use of the funds.

HB 1278 provides needed financial support to counties who are joining forces to fight interjurisdictional crime. Accordingly, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1278.