



Senate Bill 838

Transportation - Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Service - County Funding

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: March 10, 2022

From: Dominic J. Butchko and Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 838. The bill sets baseline funding for elderly and handicapped transportation services and adjusts future funding levels for inflation.

Counties handle a wide range of public transportation responsibilities. Elderly and handicapped residents often rely on public transportation as personal motor vehicles and other modes of transportation are unviable. These populations also represent those most vulnerable populations susceptible to increases in fee-for-use costs.

If enacted, this bill would set baseline funding for elderly and disabled transportation services at roughly \$4.3 million per year and, going forward, link that amount to inflation. This would, in effect, provide a stable level of resources for a service often used by one of our most vulnerable constituencies.

SB 838 stabilizes consistent and important transportation funding for elderly and disabled users. This certainty would promote year-to-year predictability for the impacted constituents and ensure the uninterrupted operation of public transportation. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 838 a **FAVORABLE** report.