



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 404

Vehicle Laws – Speed Limits – Establishment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: February 10, 2022

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 404. The bill grants local governments the ability to decrease speeds to 15 miles per hour on highways following an engineering and traffic investigation.

Counties handle a wide range of road safety and maintenance responsibilities. These responsibilities include building and maintaining roads, distributing de-icing agents before a storm, plowing, speed enforcement, responding to accidents, planning and zoning approvals, etc. Establishing speed limits is already a local responsibility, governed by best practices, but the current state law limits the lower bounds of that local authority to 25 miles per hour, other than in Montgomery County and its municipalities.

This bill recognizes a reasonable process for communities to recognize specific instances where the 25-mile-per-hour standard may not fully preserve driver or pedestrian safety, and to act locally to remedy them. Such decisions would remain subject to an appropriate study and local accountability.

HB 404 represents another practical and reasonable tool for counties to protect our streets and mutual constituents. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give HB 404 a **FAVORABLE** report.