



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 608

Housing and Community Development - Shelter and Transitional Housing Facilities Grant Program - Mandated Funding

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: February 15, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 608. This bill would increase funding for the Shelter and Transitional Housing Facilities Grant Program by \$2 million beginning in fiscal year 2024.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed an incredible burden on shelters seeking to provide beds to, and protect the health and safety of, housing insecure Marylanders. County-operated shelters and transitional housing have served as isolation spaces and hubs to connect individuals to critical services. As the pandemic begins to recede, along with the emergency funds it necessitated, support for these facilities would extend both service and capacity, as individuals slowly re-enter the workplace.

HB 608 would ease the financial burden on shelters and transitional housing facilities run by counties as society returns to normalcy. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 608 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.