



**MARYLAND**  
*Association of*  
**COUNTIES**

## **Senate Bill 781**

### *Public Safety and Behavioral Health Improvement Act*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance and Budget and Taxation  
Committees

Date: March 8, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber and Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 781 This bill would, among other provisions, establish the Behavioral Health Screening Grant Program, which is intended to assist local jurisdictions in identifying and treating Marylanders with substance use disorders.

Behavioral health interventions have received renewed focus as a result of high-profile incidents involving individuals experiencing crises related to substance use disorders. Counties have acted swiftly to ensure our shared constituents receive the supports they need, standing up hotlines, building crisis stability centers, and establishing mobile crisis intervention teams. This bill would assist counties in identifying individuals most in need of these services.

As the State and its counties seek to address the worsening opioid epidemic, SB 781 would bolster county efforts to identify at-risk Marylanders. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 781 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.