



## Senate Bill 8

### *Task Force to Study the Need for Enhanced Monitoring of Guardians of Vulnerable Minors*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**  
**WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: January 26, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 8 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill would establish a task force to study the need for enhanced monitoring, including state and local processes, of guardians of vulnerable minors.

One of the core functions of local departments of social services is to act as guardians for children in need of assistance, as determined by a juvenile court. Numerous county governments augment these functions with their own citizen services agencies, by various names. In this capacity, these departments operate a number of different programs including screenings and assessments, as well as protective services. Understanding the extensive role local governments play in protecting vulnerable minors under guardianship, MACo requests the following friendly amendment to SB 8:

- On page 2, line 10, insert “**(V) THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**”

MACo's amendment would further the work of the task force to be established by SB 8 through the inclusion of local government representation with in-depth knowledge of current guardianship protocols and any gaps that may exist. For this reason, MACo urges a report of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** for SB 8.