



Senate Bill 397

Public Safety – Local Law Enforcement Coordination Council and Coordinator and State Aid for Police Protection Fund

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judicial Proceedings and
Budget & Taxation Committees

Date: February 10, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 397. This bill would create a council to coordinate local enforcement efforts and substantially increase supplemental law enforcement grants to counties, including Baltimore City.

In recent years, local law enforcement officials have been charged with adopting several reforms to conform with current best practices. The costs of these reforms have often fallen on stressed county and municipal budgets. SB 397 would potentially provide these governments with over \$40 million in additional funding that could be used to:

- Implement body worn camera programs;
- Hire additional civilian staff to assist with case backlogs;
- Construct and staff civilian review boards; and
- Modernize training modules.

The coordinating council established in SB 397 would provide a forum to better manage intergovernmental agreements and joint policing efforts – potentially improving responses to human trafficking and similar matters that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Altogether, SB 397 would provide meaningful financial assistance to counties seeking to reform and modernize their local law enforcement practices. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 397 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.