



House Bill 1199

Workgroup to Study the Impact of Court-Mandated Fines and Fees

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judiciary Committee

WITH AMENDMENTS

Date: March 2, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 1199 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill establishes a workgroup to study, and provide recommendations regarding, court-mandated fines and fees, in particular those affecting low-income residents.

Many of the fines and fees to be reviewed as a part of HB 1199 are used to supplement scarce financial resources available to county leaders. Delivering public services, including safe and efficient correctional facilities, is among the most challenging feats for counties with such limited resources. Administering home detention as a condition of alternative sentences or pretrial arrangements, both of which are driven by justice and financial considerations, is another great challenge. To account for these challenges in any workgroup recommendations, MACo requests the following amendment:

- On page 2, line 4, before “(c)”, insert “**(6) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS RECOMMENDED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES: (i) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; (ii) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT; AND (iii) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.**”

This amendment would provide a fuller account of the impact of court-mandated fines and fees, including both public health and law enforcement perspectives. For this reason, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on HB 1199.