



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

## House Bill 1207

### *Public Safety - Body-Worn Cameras - Costs and Expenses*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judiciary and Appropriations Committees

Date: March 1, 2022

From: D'Paul Nibber

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1207. This bill would require the state to cover all costs associated with body-worn camera programs.

During the 2021 Maryland General Assembly Session, counties raised concerns with the body-worn camera mandate included as a piece of the Maryland Police Accountability Act. Law enforcement officials at every level of government raised concerns for two principal reasons—unanticipated and potentially significant costs, and the administrative burden of reviewing and redacting thousands of hours of sensitive footage. HB 1207, as a follow-up to last year's broad police reform legislation, is a significant and important step toward addressing these concerns, as well as ensuring smoother implementation of the Police Accountability Act.

Altogether, this bill will ensure a level playing field among our counties as they stand up their body-worn camera programs, and preserve autonomy for county law enforcement agencies to pursue technology infrastructure best suited to their needs. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 1207 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.