



House Bill 1044

Criminal Procedure – Crime Solvers Reward Fund - Establishment

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judiciary and Appropriations Committees

Date: March 7, 2023

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1044. This bill would make funds available for local law enforcement agencies to provide rewards for information relevant to a criminal investigation.

An incentive for residents to keep their neighborhoods safe brings numerous benefits. Information from the public, obtained through crime solver tip lines, can have a propulsive effect on criminal investigations. In some instances, these types of details have solidified the merits of a successful prosecution in a case. When law enforcement and county governments show a consistent record of solving crimes, public trust and peace of mind are indisputably reinforced. This bill would further those efforts.

HB 1044 would create statewide resources to advance these local efforts. The principal effect of this support would be to further ensure that such incentives can be offered independently of the “ability to pay” of the local jurisdiction. Broader and more universal tools to engage neighborhood input in crime solving promotes the best outcomes for all communities.

The opportunity to access more robust resources to enhance these programs across Maryland is an asset to both local governments and residents alike. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 1044 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.