



## House Bill 709

### *21st Century Financial Systems Council - Establishment*

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

To: Appropriations Committee

Date: March 14, 2023

From: Kevin Kinnally and Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 709 **WITH AMENDMENTS**. This legislation envisions a thoughtful but expedient process to replace the State's outdated financial system to improve efficiency and service delivery. As county governments regularly interface with the system, MACo's amendment merely offers local input to help guide this critical transition.

MACo supports efforts to modernize State government and implement services that are accessible, equitable, transparent, and accountable to local governments, businesses, nonprofits, vendors, and others who rely on timely State agency transactions and payments. HB 709 establishes the 21st Century Financial Systems Council to set policies, objectives, and priorities for transforming the State's financial management information systems infrastructure into the 21st century financial systems enterprise, as defined by the bill.

Under the bill, the Council must (1) set policies, objectives, and priorities for the transformation of the Financial Management Information System (FMIS) infrastructure into the 21st Century Financial Systems Enterprise; (2) learn the needs and priorities of all FMIS users and future known users of the enterprise; (3) collaborate with consultants to create a project proposal for, and oversee implementation of, the enterprise; (4) oversee, coordinate, and authorize the assignment of resources to the enterprise; (5) establish working groups as needed; and (5) recommend any legislative changes considered necessary by the council to address FMIS issues.

Maryland has one of the country's oldest accounting and payment processing systems. Modernizing the financial system, HB 709 could reduce costs, increase efficiencies, and provide the necessary flexibility to meet dynamic end-user requirements.

As part of a true partnership with the State, county governments can offer valuable input to help accomplish this goal. As such, MACo urges amendments to require the 21st Century Financial Systems Council to consider local input on policies, objectives, and priorities for transforming the State's financial system.

Accordingly, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for HB 709.