



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

## **Senate Bill 531**

*Public Water Systems - Supplier Requirements  
(Water Safety and Cybersecurity Act of 2023)*

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee

Date: February 23, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties **OPPOSES** SB 531. The bill prescribes specific requirements to water supply systems through a one-size-fits-all approach without consideration of existing standards and practices.

SB 531 would impose burdensome reporting, plan development, and testing requirements for operators of water supply systems. Water supply systems in Maryland range widely in scope of service – from those serving dozens of residents to those serving many thousands. Subject to specific requirements, SB 531 would apply to all water supply systems regardless of their size. This would place undue burden on smaller systems to adopt costly and potentially redundant procedures that larger systems have already implemented.

Large government-operated water supply systems typically have appropriate plans and procedures. These plans may not comply with the precise letter of what is proposed by SB 531, but they do promote transparency and accountability in locally governed water systems for their users. Conforming many fully appropriate oversight and accountability standards would be costly and inefficient and not necessarily yield more positive outcomes.

Accordingly, MACo requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report on SB 531.