



Senate Bill 387

Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Finance Committee

Date: February 23, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko and Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 387 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill would create a task force to examine how best to reduce emergency department wait times. Counties seek representation on this body via a bill amendment.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, Maryland's healthcare system has been shaken to its core. Like many areas in the public sector, healthcare providers are contending with a vast array of systemic challenges, including recruitment and retention and supply chain disruptions. Counties are a major stakeholder in the healthcare space, operating or funding a significant amount of emergency medical services transit and providing a large amount of community screening and preventative care.

As major stakeholders across multiple components of both emergency service and public infrastructure, counties ask for representation on the Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times. Long wait times for emergency departments have a cascading effect on other county medical and emergency services, and therefore counties remain committed to finding a solution and seek to have input as a partner in this important endeavor.

Counties fully support the efforts of SB 387 and ask to be included within the task force. Accordingly, MACo urges a report of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**, to add one member representing county government to the task force.