



House Bill 1095

Property Tax – Supervisors of Assessments – Alterations

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Ways and Means Committee

Date: February 28, 2023

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 1095 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill authorizes the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) to appoint a supervisor of assessments to oversee multiple counties.

As current law requires a supervisor for each county, MACo urges amendments to require each affected county's governing body to sign off on a proposal to appoint a supervisor to oversee multiple jurisdictions.

Public sector employment is in crisis. Recent workforce trends have left many positions unfilled, and public sector hiring scales uncompetitive. The State, through many years of challenging budgets, has abolished vacant positions and pursued similar, understandable, measures to address fiscal realities. The result has been a wide swath of State agencies facing hiring and retention challenges.

HB 1095 seeks to target one small sector of this larger trend – professional assessors employed by SDAT. This bill would authorize SDAT to appoint a supervisor to oversee multiple counties. Under the bill, if a supervisor oversees multiple counties, the county in which the Department determines the office of the supervisor shall be located must provide the supervisor with an office.

MACo has no quarrel with granting SDAT the flexibility to appoint a supervisor to oversee multiple counties, as the Department could reallocate funds to hire more assessors. However, counties request an amendment to make an appointment of an assessor to oversee multiple jurisdictions subject to the approval of the governing body in each affected county.

Accordingly, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on HB 1095.