



## **Senate Bill 392**

### *Wastewater Facility Supplemental Operations and Maintenance Grant Program – Establishment*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and Environment and  
Budget & Taxation Committees

Date: February 15, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 392. This bill would provide additional resources for counties that operate wastewater treatment facilities.

Counties bear a central role to manage the delivery and sanitation of water both before and after its consumption or use. This responsibility strikes at the very purpose of government: to provide for the betterment of public health. Local governments operate nearly all the wastewater infrastructure within Maryland, a responsibility local leaders accept with care.

SB 392 establishes and provides funding for the Wastewater Facility Supplemental Operations and Maintenance Grant Program. This program seeks to provide local governments and operators with additional resources to help with the maintenance and operations of wastewater facilities. Similarly to nearly all segments of public service, the recruitment and retention of qualified staff have been significant challenges for many roles in the wastewater field, and public works generally. The additional investment provided by SB 392 would help to target this worrisome and prevalent concern.

SB 392 provides sorely needed additional resources for counties that operate wastewater facilities. Accordingly, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 392.