



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

## **Senate Bill 1077**

*Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - School Security  
Employees*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Appropriations Committee

**WITH AMENDMENTS**

Date: March 27, 2024

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 1077 WITH AMENDMENTS**. As amended, this bill authorizes increased funding for the School Resource Officer (SRO) Grant Program beginning in FY 2026. It also authorizes the grant funds to be used for personnel costs for school security employees (SSEs) in addition to school resource officers (SROs) (an already authorized expense). **Counties support SB 1077 but request an amendment to require the bill's proposed increases in annual appropriations for the Program to provide grants to local school systems.**

As introduced, SB 1077 sought to increase annual grant program funding from \$10 million to \$15 million in FY 2026, and \$20 million in FY 2027 and every year after. The Senate amended the bill to make future increases in funding enabling instead of mandatory. SB 1077 is currently before the Appropriations Committee in that posture. Counties understand the delicate situation the General Assembly finds itself in following several revenue write-downs and an uncertain economic future. However, the grants provided by the SRO Grant Program are critical to ensuring Maryland's children have safe school environments where they can learn and grow. This is especially true post-pandemic when more students are struggling with mental health and behavioral challenges.

**With those considerations, MACo seeks a simple amendment to revert SB 1077 to its original intention as introduced and to require—instead of enabling—the proposed funding increases to the SRO Grant Program.** Doing so will help schools more reliably and predictably address growing safety needs and will position Maryland's public education students for success. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS SB 1077 with that amendment** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.