



## Senate Bill 148

### *Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program – Funding for Underserved and Overburdened Communities and Areas at Extreme Risk of Flooding*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**  
**WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Environment and Transportation and  
Appropriations Committees

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From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 148 WITH AMENDMENTS**. As amended, this bill redirects limited resources to a handful of communities based on criteria beyond the intended emergency purposes of the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program (CFMGP).

Counties bear a central role in managing flood prevention and stormwater infrastructure. This responsibility strikes at the purpose of government: to improve public health and safety. Local governments operate nearly all the stormwater and flood prevention infrastructure within Maryland, a responsibility local leaders accept with care.

As initially drafted, SB 148 expanded the CFMGP by increasing funding to \$20 million and required that at least forty percent of those funds go toward certain communities with high environmental justice concerns. Rather than expanding the existing program with partially targeted funds, the amended bill places new restrictions onto current funding streams.

**The amended bill strips out any requirement for new funding and adds additional narrow permanent criteria for where 40% of current resources may be invested.** Due to Maryland's primarily coastal geography, communities of all demographic backgrounds will be increasingly impacted by flooding and sea level rise. The success of the Program is that it flexibly directs resources where they are most needed. County leaders urge the Committee to restore both the current flexible criteria and additional funding for the program.

As amended, SB 148 fails to recognize that increased flooding is a concern for all Marylanders and artificially narrows where current mitigation resources may be directed. Accordingly, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on SB 148.