



House Bill 1241

*Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices -
Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Economic Matters Committee

WITH AMENDMENTS

Date: February 25, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1241 **WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill strengthens the enforcement of laws regulating other tobacco products and electronic smoking devices by granting the Executive Director of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission or a peace officer the authority to seize products sold or offered for sale in violation of the law without a warrant.

MACo appreciates the intent of HB 1241 to minimize the illegal distribution of these products and ensure proper enforcement mechanisms. However, MACo respectfully requests clarifying amendments to ensure that enforcement responsibilities remain primarily with the Commission and their designated peace officers rather than falling disproportionately on local jurisdictions. The bill should specify that enforcement authority rests squarely with the Commission and its peace officers to prevent local jurisdictions from being burdened with staffing and resource demands. The seizure provision should be implemented so that it does not inadvertently create enforcement obligations for local law enforcement beyond their existing responsibilities. Record-keeping and compliance requirements for wholesalers, retailers, and enforcement agencies should be clearly defined to ensure effective oversight at the state level without excessive administrative burdens on local governments.

MACo is committed to working with the sponsor to refine these provisions so that they promote effective regulation while protecting local resources. These amendments will help strengthen enforcement against illegal sales while ensuring counties are not left to shoulder unintended responsibilities.

For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to give HB 1241 a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report.