



Senate Bill 497

Department of Information Technology - Maryland OneStop - Required State, County, and Municipal Information

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

Date: February 20, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 497. This bill requires every county and municipal corporation to make all licenses, forms, certificates, permits, applications, and registrations available on Maryland OneStop by July 1, 2026. Additionally, local governments would be required to update these materials every two months to ensure accuracy.

While increasing public access to licensing and permitting information is a worthy goal, this bill imposes significant administrative and financial burdens on local governments without guaranteeing the necessary resources for implementation. SB 497 presents significant concerns regarding implementation, funding, operational impact, and county autonomy. SB 497 does not provide dedicated state funding to support the substantial administrative and technological costs associated with compliance. This lack of financial support places an undue burden on local governments, many of which already face strained budgets.

Ensuring full compliance with this bill would require staff across multiple departments to dedicate time and resources to uploading and maintaining thousands of documents, diverting attention away from essential services and core government functions. The bill lacks clarity on whether local governments would need to fully integrate their existing digital systems with Maryland OneStop or if simple linking would suffice. If full integration is required, counties would face expensive software upgrades, data standardization efforts, and security compliance measures, further increasing costs and administrative burdens.

MACo strongly urges the Committee to consider a feasibility study before proceeding with this legislation. Such a study would assess the financial, operational, and technical implications to ensure that any new requirements are realistic and achievable, and what State funds may make its full implementation achievable.

For these reasons, MACo urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on SB 497.