



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 1360

Environment - Road Salt - Outdoor Storage

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: March 5, 2025

From: Dominic J. Butchko and Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 1360. This bill prohibits the outdoor uncovered storage of road salt and requires counties to enforce this prohibition.

Maryland's counties, as the frontline stewards of their communities, have a strong vested interest in protecting the state's environment and waterways. The application and storage of road salt are already closely regulated and monitored through the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits, state regulations, and local policies. Both the State Highway Administration and sixteen of Maryland's twenty-four counties operate under MS4 permits, which require detailed planning and reporting on road salt usage. The remaining, smaller jurisdictions still adhere to state and local oversight.

As currently drafted, HB 1360 is redundant, administratively burdensome, and financially unsustainable. It imposes an unfunded mandate on county public works departments—entities without regulatory or enforcement authority—requiring them to establish new enforcement programs and hire additional staff. The associated costs would likely range from hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars, diverting critical resources from essential public infrastructure. This comes at a time when the State is shifting financial burdens of up to \$250 million onto counties while federal aid is being reduced or eliminated.

HB 1360 is a duplicative and costly unfunded mandate, which, if enacted, will strain capacity and hurt communities. For this reason, MACo urges the Committee to give an **UNFAVORABLE** report on **HB 1360**.