



House Bill 452

Outdoor Lighting - Guidance and Use of State Funds

MACo Position:

LETTER OF INFORMATION

Date: February 12, 2025

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) offers the following **Letter of Information** regarding HB 452. As drafted, this bill would place certain limitations on the types of outdoor lighting fixtures that can be used at state facilities and directs the Maryland Green Building Council to update or develop guidance for the purchase of outdoor lighting fixtures.

While initially limited to state facilities and buildings, HB 452 may affect county projects as a result of the guidance established by the Maryland Green Building Council. Counties recognize the bill's intent of ensuring certain lighting does not interfere with animal populations. In this era of climate change, it is important to better harmonize infrastructure with broader environmental forces, but it is also worth noting that the proposed 3000-Kelvin standard would have significant public safety implications.

For example, in settings such as athletic fields and other outdoor facilities, lighting within the 4000-7500 Kelvin range or higher may be necessary for visibility and safety. By restricting the types of lighting that may be purchased with state funds, the state could inadvertently be putting our mutual constituents' safety at risk.

Counties ask that if the Committee does move forward with HB 452, that they give due consideration to the broader public safety and infrastructure considerations – especially those regarding recreational and public-use facilities.