



Affiliates of
The Maryland Association of Counties, Inc.

TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Maryland Conference of Environmental Health Directors
Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO)

RE: SB 701 – Public Health – Cottage Food Products – Nonpotentially Hazardous Foods and Refrigerated Baked Goods

POSITION: Letter of Opposition

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (Conference) and the Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) provide this Letter of Opposition for SB 701. In their capacities as the state's twenty-four Health Officers who oversee the state's twenty-four local public health departments and their Environmental Health Directors who carry out delegated authorities from both MDE and MDH, they have the responsibility for local enforcement and response. Our members have the following public health concerns:

As stipulated in the definition of refrigerated baked good, this legislation would allow products to be produced in a home kitchen that require refrigeration to ensure food safety, without adequate oversight or regulation.

Without regulatory oversight, there is no control over the processes that prevent the introduction of pathogens into the product.

Home refrigeration is not designed to cool products quickly and may not hold products at the proper temperature, allowing the proliferation of pathogens in the product.

Without safeguards to how the products are prepared and stored, these products present a risk to public health.

Therefore, MACHO and the Conference provide a **letter of OPPOSITION** for SB 701.

For more information:

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MACHO: Ruth Maiorana, Executive Director, Maryland Association of County Health Officers, Phone: 410-937-1433, rmaiora1@jhu.edu

This communication reflects the position of MACHO and the Conference.