



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 409

Economic Development - County or Municipal Corporation
Economic Development Authority - Powers and Use of Proceeds

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Ways and Means and Environment and
Transportation Committees

Date: March 20, 2025

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 409. This bill expands the scope of certain economic and industrial development authorities established by county governments.

Maryland is facing historic challenges this legislative session. Uncertainty over the state economy, how changes in Washington will affect Marylanders, lags in affordable housing production, a budding energy crisis brought on by nearby high-energy users, and a myriad of other important issues all need to be addressed by legislators in 2025. The single thread that binds all of these issues together is that a more resilient, faster-growing, diverse economy will largely insulate constituents from some of the worst headwinds still beyond the horizon. This bill gives counties a stronger tool to help build a broader economy in the communities that all Marylanders call home.

Counties applaud the intent of SB 409 and thank the House and Senate sponsors for their partnership with counties in steering Maryland into a more vibrant future. As amended, this bill gives counties a new powerful tool and buttresses a local legislative body's oversight and auditing authority over the authorities created under this bill.

SB 409 is a good governance bill that adds more tools in the toolbox to spur economic growth and resilience. For this reason, MACo urges the Committees to give SB 409 a **FAVORABLE** report.