



House Bill 953

Revenue Stabilization Account - Transfer of Funds - State Disaster Recovery Fund

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget & Taxation Committee

Date: March 24, 2026

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 953. This bill authorizes the governor, with approval from the Board of Public Works, to transfer funds from the Revenue Stabilization Account to the State Disaster Recovery Fund (SDRF), strengthening Maryland's ability to respond when disasters impose immediate costs on communities.

County governments shoulder many of the front-line responsibilities during disasters. Local emergency managers coordinate response operations, restore essential infrastructure, and support residents as communities begin recovery. These responsibilities often require significant local spending even when federal disaster assistance proves delayed, uncertain, or unavailable.

The SDRF helps close that gap by providing targeted support when disaster costs exceed local fiscal capacity or when federal assistance falls short, and this bill provides additional flexibility to reinforce the fund when major events place extraordinary pressure on available recovery resources.

MACo and its County Emergency Managers Affiliate helped lead efforts to establish the SDRF so Maryland would have a reliable tool to support communities when disaster costs exceed local capacity or federal assistance proves insufficient.

Western Maryland's severe flooding illustrates the importance of that tool. Damage far exceeded local fiscal capacity, and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management worked with county officials to deploy SDRF assistance in the absence of timely federal disaster relief.

HB 953 ensures the State has the flexibility to reinforce the SDRF when disaster recovery costs place extraordinary pressure on available resources. Accordingly, MACo respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 953.