



## **Senate Bill 929**

### *Home Improvement Contractors - Disaster Mitigation Services - Regulation and Prohibition*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee

Date: March 5, 2026

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 929. This bill authorizes counties to impose limitations on in-person solicitation of disaster victims by contractors offering these services, including limits on the hours and areas where solicitation may occur.

Additionally, this bill alters the definition of home improvement to include disaster mitigation services for purposes of contractor licensing and regulation. These services include boarding up windows or doors to secure a building, demolishing a structure to prevent further damage, setting water mitigation equipment, tarping or caulking a damaged roof or building, and securing a wall or roof to prevent additional harm. By clarifying that these activities fall within the home improvement regulatory framework, the bill ensures that contractors performing this work are subject to appropriate oversight and accountability.

In the wake of a fire, flood, or other emergency, residents are often in shock, displaced, and navigating insurance claims. Unfortunately, this moment of vulnerability can attract predatory actors who overcharge for repairs, demand substantial upfront payments, perform substandard work, or fail to perform the work at all. In some cases, inflated invoices submitted to insurance carriers reduce the funds ultimately available to homeowners to fully rebuild and recover.

SB 929 provides counties with a meaningful tool to address these practices while preserving flexibility to tailor protections to local circumstances. The bill does not mandate action; rather, it authorizes counties to respond when necessary to protect residents following a disaster. This measured, permissive approach respects local control and recognizes that counties are often on the front lines of disaster response and recovery.

For these reasons, MACo respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 929.