



Senate Bill 739

Climate Change, Homeowner's Insurance, and Emergency Management - Study

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation and
Judiciary Committees

Date: April 2, 2026

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 739.

This bill advances a top priority identified by county emergency managers by directing the University System of Maryland to evaluate Maryland's emergency management funding structure and develop recommendations for sustainable, long-term funding.

Counties fund and operate local emergency management offices and maintain readiness across prevention, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation. Federal disaster funding continues to fluctuate, with reimbursement timelines remaining uncertain and new administrative conditions complicating local budgeting and planning. Counties must sustain staffing, training, communications systems, and coordination capacity regardless of federal instability.

The bill requires the study to examine per capita funding levels, allocation between preparedness and response, recurring dedicated revenue mechanisms, and the impact of federal funding changes on state and local readiness. The study must also evaluate how insurance market pressures intersect with local mitigation investments.

A stable and predictable emergency management funding structure directly affects county readiness and the delivery of essential public safety services. SB 739 provides a practical and responsible step toward that goal.

For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 739.