



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

HB 119 – Energy Performance Contracts - Navigators, Funding, and Requirements

DATE: February 3, 2026
COMMITTEE: House Environment and Transportation Committee
POSITION: Favorable with Amendments
FROM: Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

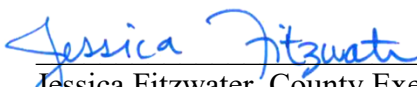
As the Frederick County Executive, I urge the committee to pass **HB 119 - Energy Performance Contracts - Navigators, Funding, and Requirements** with MACO's proposed amendments.

As currently drafted, this bill would require public bodies, including county governments, that enter into any energy performance contract to work with a navigator from the Maryland Clean Energy Center. These navigators would assist counties by providing expertise and assistance with securing funding opportunities. The bill would also require counties to follow additional procurement policies, Title 12, Subtitle 3 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, that are duplicative of existing practices and requirements, which would ultimately lead to inefficiencies and unnecessary hurdles in the procurement of energy performance contracts. While this initiative is likely to assist some counties who are struggling with navigating energy performance contracts, not every county is dealing with these issues.

MACo is proposing amendments to make this legislation enabling for counties, rather than mandatory. This will allow for counties who need extra assistance to have access to navigators when necessary. It would also create the option for counties to choose which energy performance contracts to seek assistance with, as some contracts and funding opportunities are more straightforward than others.

Frederick County is committed to continuing to increase our energy efficiency across county buildings. By having the option to work with a navigator on energy performance contracts, the county has the potential to continue these efforts while saving money in the process. However, the amendments are necessary as the bill would currently require counties to work with navigators on all energy performance contracts, including simple efficiency improvements like upgrades to LED lighting. While navigators will be helpful with complicated or high-dollar contracts, it is unnecessary and inefficient to involve them in simple or recurring contracts.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 119. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable with amendments report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD