



House Bill 183

Correctional Training Commission – Correctional Officer Members

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Judiciary Committee

Date: February 5, 2013

From: Leslie Knapp Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) OPPOSES House Bill 183 (HB 183). The bill would require that four members of the Correctional Training Commission (CTC), who currently can be either State or local correctional officers or officials, must be State correctional officers recommended by the officers' exclusive bargaining unit representative – currently the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

The 14-member CTC sets training standards and curriculum for all correctional officers throughout the state and approves schools that provide such training. Given that the CTC affects the training, costs, and security readiness of local correctional facilities, it is only fair that local correctional officers and officials be eligible to serve in the four slots designated for those directly affected by the CTC standards. Currently, the Governor has appointed a local warden to serve in one of those four slots and HB 183 would remove that important local voice.

Local correctional facilities also serve different needs than State facilities and come in varying sizes. A State correctional officer may not be familiar with the differing requirements of a local detention center.

In conclusion, HB 183 would remove the ability of local correctional officers and officials to provide critical input on the training and education requirements of local officers, whose needs and purposes can be different from those of State correctional officers. Accordingly, MACo recommends the Committee issue an UNFAVORABLE report on HB 183.