



House Bill 136

Environment - On-Site Wastewater Services - Regulation

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: February 12, 2020

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 136 WITH AMENDMENTS**. MACo supports licensure for on-site wastewater property inspectors, but does not believe there is enough evidence to warrant the creation of a Board designed to license other on-site wastewater service providers.

MACo, after consultation with county environmental health directors, is aware of numerous instances where inspectors with little or no training signed off on a septic system that was clearly failing or in need of major repairs. Due to this systemic problem, MACo believes that licensing and training requirements are needed for inspectors.

MACo and the Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors have been working with stakeholders to try and come to an agreement regarding HB 136. Accordingly, the Conference and MACo can agree that on-site wastewater inspectors should be licensed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). An agreement cannot be reached on the creation of a Board responsible for licensure of the many on-site wastewater professionals included in HB 136.

MACo recognizes the need to license inspectors but believes there is a lack of data identifying systemic issues with other service providers. MACo is supporting HB 136 with amendments to conform HB 136 to SB 254 which requires that property transfer inspectors be licensed by MDE. This is a reasonable step to protect homeowners from poor inspections.

For these reasons, MACo urges a report on HB 136 of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** to conform the bill the SB 254.