



House Bill 167

Counties and Municipalities – At-Will Supervisory Employees – Residency Requirements

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

Date: February 14, 2017

To: Appropriations Committee

From: Kevin Kinnally & Barbara Zektick

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 167 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill authorizes a local government to require an at-will supervisory employee to reside in the state, county, or municipality as a condition of employment if the employee reports directly to the head of a unit of local government.

Currently, local governments may only impose residency requirements on department heads and similar managerial positions. This bill will provide local governments with greater autonomy and flexibility in implementing local policies designed to serve and react to community needs.

While MACo supports the premise of this bill, counties want to ensure current local government employees are not adversely affected by the implementation of a new residency requirement policy. To address this concern, MACo proposes amending the following language into HB 167:

“This Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively, and any law, ordinance, or policy enacted pursuant to this Act may not be applied or interpreted to affect the continued employment of any individual employed before the effective date of the local law or ordinance, or policy.”

HB 167 ensures local governments have flexibility in enacting local policies designed to serve and react to community needs. Accordingly, MACo urges the committee to issue a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for HB 167.