



House Bill 351

Land Use and Vehicle Miles Traveled Workgroup

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 351 WITH AMENDMENTS**. The bill would establish a Land Use and Vehicle Miles Traveled Workgroup. MACo believes that expanded, and geographically diverse, local government representation would strengthen the credibility and direction of the group.

The Workgroup would be tasked with developing a State strategy that identifies state and local land use policies, business incentives, transportation policies, investments, and programs in an effort to reduce vehicle miles traveled. MACo recognizes that this workgroup can produce recommendations that may serve as a resource for local governments, and believes this should be incorporated more directly into its charge.

MACo believes a workgroup that so clearly impacts county's land use decisions should have substantial representation from Maryland's counties. MACo also believes that geographic diversity among its local representatives would undergird the work and perspective of the group. Jointly tasking the organizations representing local governments across Maryland with those appointments would reasonably assure a balanced and constructive representation.

Accordingly, MACo asks that the Committee give HB 351 a report of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**.

MACo suggested amendments:

On page 1 in line 19, and on page 4, in line 8, in each instance after "State strategy" insert "including tools for potential use by local governments,".

On page 2, strike lines 8 and 9 in their entirety and substitute:

"(14) Six members representing Maryland's municipalities and counties, appointed jointly by the Maryland Municipal League and Maryland Association of Counties."