



House Bill 400

Agriculture – Mosquito Control – Notification to Municipalities

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: March 20, 2018

To: Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee
From: Leslie Knapp, Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 400 as amended. The bill would require the state, a county, or a bi-county agency to provide at least 24 hours of notice to a municipality before spraying for mosquitoes within the boundaries of the municipality. The state, county, or bi-county agency must provide the municipality the location of spraying and the planned date and time of the spraying.

The 24-hour notice can be waived when the state or a county or bi-county agency needs to move rapidly to control an outbreak of a virus, contagion, or similar public health threat. A government should not have to wait 24 hours before addressing a potential Zika Virus or West Nile Virus outbreak. In such a circumstance, the state, county, or bi-county agency would provide notice to the municipality as soon as practicable.

MACo believes the bill's notice requirements are reasonable when counties are conducting routine spraying within municipal boundaries. The bill's waiver provides an adequate exception if the spraying is being conducted as an emergency response for public health purposes. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give HB 400 a **FAVORABLE** report.