



## **House Bill 645**

### *Business Regulation – Wireless Security Systems – Local Government Licenses and Permits*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: March 28, 2018

From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 645** as it establishes sensible parameters on the regulation of wireless security systems.

HB 645 defines a wireless security system and prohibits local governments from requiring any license or permit to install, maintain, inspect, replace, or service a wireless security system that does not require a fire protection plan review. As introduced, the bill was vague on the specific license or permit prohibition. It did not account for longstanding, commonsense state and local public safety protections for security systems, which should apply regardless of whether the security system is wired or not. As amended, the bill accomplishes its objectives more clearly, and without upending important and appropriate local oversight.

As amended, the bill ensures that:

- (1) Low voltage is explicitly defined as 50 volts or lower;
- (2) Only electrical licenses or electrical permits are prohibited for wireless systems;
- (3) Individuals who install wireless systems comply with state laws governing security system technicians;
- (4) Wireless security system operators and users comply with any local alarm business registration and alarm system registration laws; and
- (5) Wireless systems must meet the appropriate building codes wherever installed.

HB 645 provides clarity to vague provisions of current law and protects the safety of county residents, while setting a framework to appropriately regulate wireless security systems. For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 645.