



## House Bill 685

### *Libraries – County Library Capital Project Grant – Wealth-Based Cost Share*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: April 3, 2013

From: Robin Clark

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 685. This bill establishes a minimum of 50% and a maximum of 90% for the State share of a county library capital project.

Under current law, the maximum State share of a county library capital project is 50%. As found in the recent study conducted by the Maryland State Department of Education, the current State share maximum has prevented several counties from pursuing capital projects, as they were unable to meet the match. Under this bill, State share of county library capital project funding will be based on the State aid formula and will more accurately reflect the disparities and needs of counties. Beginning in FY 2014, the new formula will provide more than 50% State share funding to twelve counties for their library capital grants approved by the State through the public library capital grant program.

The counties, who share responsibility with the State for Maryland's libraries, support the State's continued commitment toward our common public infrastructure goals.

Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 685.