



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 918

Business Regulation - Automated Purchasing Machines - Licensing of Buyers and Required Records

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

Date: March 27, 2014

From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 918. HB 918 would create a statewide regulation protocol for automated purchasing machine (APM) operators. MACo seeks to ensure the bill as passed by the House, including a provision protecting local governments' ability to prohibit the machines within their jurisdiction, is also voted favorably by the Senate.

MACo appreciates and supports the core intent of the bill to regulate APMs and their operators in a manner that is similar to junk dealers and scrap metal processors. Operators submitting timely information to locally designated public safety agencies can empower law enforcement to better respond to theft.

Through an agreement between MACo, the APM industry, and law enforcement, the bill as passed by the House includes a provision preserving the ability for local governments to ban the machines within their jurisdiction while requiring that APMs operating in counties without a ban would have to comply with the state-established regulatory scheme. MACo requests the Senate retain this language and adopt the bill as it has been passed by the House.

For these reasons, MACo recommends the Committee issue a report of **FAVORABLE** report on HB 918.