



House Bill 1076

Counties and Municipalities – Required Legislation or Regulations – Adoption by Reference

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: February 28, 2013

To: Environmental Matters Committee

From: Leslie Knapp Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1076. The bill would authorize a county or municipality to adopt a State law or regulation by reference if the law or regulation requires that the local jurisdiction adopt provisions that are at least as strict as the law or regulation. If a local jurisdiction adopts a law or regulation by reference, the jurisdiction must specify: (1) whether it also adopts by reference any subsequent amendments to the law or regulation; and (2) any exceptions to the law or regulation if local options are allowed.

HB 1076 would help local governments streamline their adoption process of complicated State laws and regulations, such as those pertaining to the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coastal Bays critical areas. Rather than having to draft local versions of the critical area provisions, it would be far more efficient and much easier to be able to simply adopt those provisions by reference.

HB 1076 would allow for a more streamlined and efficient local adoption process of large and complicated State laws and regulations. The bill does not have a State fiscal cost and would provide some administrative relief to local governments. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to adopt a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1076.