



## House Bill 1117

### *Alarm Systems – Registration and Renewal - Penalties*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**  
**with AMENDMENTS**

To: Economic Matters

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From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 1117 with AMENDMENTS** to ensure counties retain the authority to take swift action against alarm system contractors that shirk their responsibilities and violate local laws.

HB 1117 sets parameters for when a county or municipality may impose a penalty against an alarm system contractor for failing to register an alarm system or renew an alarm system registration as required under local law. The bill provides for a 10-day period before a county may penalize an alarm company for failing to properly register or renew an alarm system. This 10-day time frame hinders the ability of local governments to effectively hold bad acting contractors accountable.

Proper and prompt registration of an alarm system is an important tool for local governments to combat false alarms and the drain of valuable police time and resources that accompany them. Registration and renewals help ensure that local governments are able to quickly identify and contact alarm users prior to the dispatch of police resources.

Improper or missing registrations can result in confusion and dangerous delays of police response. For instance, Baltimore City and Baltimore County share 15 different zip codes. Without proper registration, calls may come into the wrong jurisdiction for police dispatch, delaying prompt police response.

These amendments strike a necessary balance. The parameters set by the bill for imposing a penalty on alarm contractors ensure that they will only be penalized for these specific violations, rather than for actions outside of their control. Removing the 10-day period will help ensure counties are able to hold contractors accountable for violating local law in a timely fashion.

For these reasons MACo urges a **FAVORABLE with AMENDMENTS** report on HB 1117.

## Amendments

### Amendment No. 1

On page 2:

In line 12, strike "EMERGENCY".

In line 18, strike "EMERGENCY".

In line 23, strike "EMERGENCY".

In line 29, strike "EMERGENCY".

### Amendment No. 2

On page 2:

In line 13, after "USER;" insert "**AND**"

Strike in its entirety lines 16-18.

### Amendment No. 3

On page 2:

In line 27, strike beginning with "DOES" through "DISPATCH" and replace with

**"IS PROVIDED NOTICE THAT:**

- (1) THE ALARM REGISTRATION IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE, OR**
- (2) THE ALARM REGISTRATION HAS NOT BEEN RENEWED, OR**
- (3) THE ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTOR OR ALARM USER HAS ACCESS TO REGISTRATION STATUS."**