



House Bill 1224

Environment – Liquid Waste Hauler – Vehicle License and Inspection

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

Date: March 1, 2017

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Leslie Knapp, Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 1224. The bill is intended to replace a system of local vehicle inspections and fees for liquid waste haulers with a more centralized State-controlled system.

HB 1224 would require the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to create a new annual vehicle licensing requirement for liquid waste haulers. MDE must inspect and approve each vehicle before it can issue that vehicle a waste hauler license. The inspection duty can be delegated to a county health department. MDE may set reasonable fees to cover the cost of licensing and inspections. If MDE delegates the inspection authority to a local health department, the local department may set a reasonable inspection fee.

Currently, various county health departments already conduct vehicle inspections and impose inspection fees that are based on local needs and capabilities. A county has an interest in ensuring that liquid waste haulers conduct their business within the county in a safe manner and use vehicles that comply with relevant county safety protocols. HB 1224 would seek to impose a “one size fits all” inspection solution that ignores individual local circumstances.

Particularly difficult would be the comingling of grease with septage. Grease is currently regulated under entirely different requirements and by different state agencies than septage. The reason is that very few wastewater treatment plants can accommodate grease. Grease will block and clog the workings of a treatment plant without specialized technology to manage it, causing costly damage to the plant and potentially users due to sewage backups.

HB 1224 would replace an existing and functioning local inspection system with a more State-controlled system that will be less likely to account for individual county concerns with the inspection of liquid waste hauler vehicles. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** report for HB 1224.