



## House Bill 1299

### *Property Tax - Crane Located on State Property - Exemption*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: March 31, 2016

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Andrea E. Mansfield

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1299. As amended by the House, reflecting discussions that have taken place between the Maryland Port Administration, Baltimore City and County, and Ports America Chesapeake, this bill would exempt from the personal property tax cranes used for cargo handling purposes.

Ports America Chesapeake owns several cranes and other personal property subject to local personal property taxes. Concerns were expressed by the budget committees last year that the assessment of the personal property tax on Ports America Chesapeake could put Maryland at a disadvantage with other ports.

To protect local jurisdictions from lost revenue, estimated to be \$2.2 million annually, the budget committees urged the Maryland Port Administration to meet with local representatives and Ports America Chesapeake to develop an agreeable fiscal arrangement. As amended, HB 1299 codifies the fiscal arrangement agreed upon by all parties.

Accordingly, MACo would urge the Committee to vote HB 1299 a **FAVORABLE** report as amended.