



House Bill 1313

Local Correctional Facilities – Prerelease and Work Release Programs – Assessment of Fees

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Judiciary Committee

Date: February 27, 2018

From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 1313 as it restricts the ability for local jails to recoup limited costs for an inmate’s participation in prerelease or work release programs, which could result in the unintended consequence of depleting the availability of these valued offerings.

HB 1313 prohibits a jail from assessing a fee, with certain limited exceptions, for an inmate’s participation in certain programs. It also repeals specific authorizations for fees that may be charged or waived in Anne Arundel and Washington Counties.

Counties understand the intent to ensure defendants are not overly burdened with the costs of the criminal justice system, however the State must be mindful not to undercut prerelease or work release programs by limiting the ability to recoup some associated costs. Currently, about half of the county jails operate these programs. The bill would not only undermine those counties providing prerelease or work release programs, but may discourage others from establishing such programs.

HB 1313 limits local jails’ authority to assess fees for an inmate’s participation in prerelease or work release programs and may undermine the ability for jails to provide these services. For these reasons, MACo urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 1313.