



House Bill 1316

*Crimes – Sale of Drug Paraphernalia to a Minor – Local Law Authorizing Business
License Revocation for a Second or Subsequent Violation*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judiciary Committee

Date: March 6, 2014

From: Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1316. This bill would allow the governing body of a county to adopt a local law that authorizes the county to revoke or not renew the business license of an establishment for the second or subsequent conviction of an employee selling drug paraphernalia to a minor. MACo supports this bill to provide local governments with an additional tool to address what some find is a persistent public safety issue.

The potential withdrawal of a local business license, under the specific circumstances envisioned in HB 1316, can create a needed incentive for a business owner to maintain and enforce practices to safeguard against illegal sales. These common sense protections can work alongside other civil or criminal remedies to best protect minors and neighborhoods from unwelcome activities.

For these reasons, MACo recommends the Committee issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1316.