



House Bill 1406

Vehicle Laws - Special Event Zones

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: March 2, 2018

From: Barbara Zektick

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1406. This bill authorizes local governments, in concert with the State Highway Administration where appropriate, to establish “special event zones” on their roads, set lower speed limits within those zones, and enforce those lower speed limits in an effort to protect pedestrians in the vicinity.

MACo supports this bill as a tool in counties’ toolboxes to keep their residents and visitors safe during special events. According to data provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were 92 pedestrian fatalities in Maryland in 2015 (the most recent year for which data was publicly available). Pedestrian fatalities accounted for 18 percent of all traffic fatalities in the state, with 1.53 pedestrian fatalities per every 100,000 residents. Alcohol involvement – for the driver, pedestrian, or both – was reported in nearly half of all fatal pedestrian crashes nationwide.

As counties host special events to promote tourism, economic development, and quality of life in their communities, it is imperative that they maintain as many tools as possible to keep attendees safe. For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1406.