



House Bill 1416

Public Water Systems - Supplier Requirements
(Water Quality Accountability Act of 2020)

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: March 4, 2020

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties **OPPOSES** HB 1416. The bill prescribes specific requirements to water supply systems through a one-size-fits-all approach without consideration of existing standards and practices.

HB 1416 would impose burdensome reporting, plan development, and testing requirements for operators of water supply systems. Water supply systems in Maryland range widely in scope of service - from those serving dozens residents to those serving thousands. Subject to specific requirements, HB 1416 would apply to all water supply systems regardless of their size. This would place undue burden on smaller systems to adopt costly and potentially redundant procedures that larger systems have already implemented.

Large government operated water supply systems typically have appropriate plans procedures. These plans are not identical to what is proposed by HB 1416, but nor are they inferior to what is required under the bill. Conforming standards would be costly and inefficient and not necessarily yield more positive outcomes.

Accordingly, MACo requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 1416.