



## House Bill 1459

### *Education – Cooperative or Joint Administration of Programs*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: March 15, 2013

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Robin Clark and Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1459. This bill would establish a yearly meeting for representatives of county boards of education and county governments to evaluate potential areas for cooperation or collaboration in their program administration.

Under current law, a county board of education may enter into an agreement for the cooperative or joint administration of programs with a county government. Personnel, purchasing, accounting, data processing, printing, insurance, building maintenance, and transportation are all possible areas for joint administration under current law. HB 1459 adds a process for county board and county government officials to review areas currently subject to cooperative agreements, consider additional areas for agreement, and create a record that will serve both parties in these ongoing discussions to promote operational efficiencies.

Counties and school boards share the goal of the effective use of education funding. Counties typically commit more local funding to education than all other county services, combined. County school boards are constantly seeking to improve their services for our students and communities within limited funding. While an option for joint administration of programs exists in statute, it is possible that opportunities for collaboration remain undiscovered. HB 1459 creates a structure to discuss and advance such remaining opportunities, to better serve the schoolchildren and the taxpayers.

For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 1459 to encourage additional collaboration, where mutually beneficial, for county boards of education, county governments, students, and taxpayers. MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1459.