



Senate Bill 117

*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 26, 2013

From: Robin J. Clark

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 117. 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 SB 117, 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 neighborhoods from unwelcome activities.

The counties join with the law enforcement community in seeking this additional tool to protect minors. For these reasons, MACo recommends the Committee issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 117.