



## Senate Bill 54

### *Public Utilities – Transportation Network Services and For-Hire Transportation - Clarifications*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: January 19, 2016

To: Finance Committee

From: Andrea E. Mansfield

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 54. This emergency bill clarifies the new state laws regulating for-hire transportation providers such as Uber and Lyft. The bill arises from collaborative interim discussions among stakeholders.

Legislation that passed during the 2015 legislative session (Ch. 204, Acts of 2015) established a regulatory framework for these providers, who are otherwise known as transportation network operators (TNOs). The legislation authorized local governments to impose a 25-cent per ride assessment on this service (with a special “grandfathering” provision for Baltimore City). Other language in the bill authorized those jurisdictions that currently regulate taxi cabs to impose the assessment and established a “right of first refusal” process in counties and municipalities that currently do not.

During implementation of this legislation, the Comptroller’s Office found the language authorizing the fee to be confusing and requested that it, along with some of the other provisions, be clarified. A small group, including MACo, the Maryland Municipal League (MML), Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, and committee staff met during the interim to develop language to clarify the imposition of the fee and the “right of first refusal” process. All parties were able to reach consensus and this language has been incorporated into SB 54.

Accordingly, MACo would urge the Committee to give SB 54 a **FAVORABLE** report.