



## Senate Bill 83

### *Public Safety - School Safety Enforcement Fund*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: March 15, 2016

To: Appropriations Committee

From: Robin Clark Eilenberg

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 83. The bill would expand the purposes of an existing fund for school bus safety to provide grant funding for any purpose that enhances school safety. The bill would also open the grant to applications from school boards and would lift the existing \$35,000 cap on individual grant applications.

MACo appreciates the interest of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention in making funds available to local school boards for projects that enhance school safety. As partners in K-12 education who are also aware of the risks facing today's school children, county governments support additional funding for school safety.

Currently, local law enforcement agencies and Maryland State Police barracks receive this grant funding for school bus safety enforcement programs. These programs target drivers who fail to stop for school bus vehicles in identified problem areas.

Counties appreciate how the amended version of SB 83 will ensure geographic distribution of grant recipients throughout the state. Without this amendment, counties had concerns that the legislation could have created undue competition between local law enforcement agencies and could have resulted in an uneven distribution of funds amongst Maryland's counties. The amended legislation addresses these concerns, while remaining consistent with the bill's overall intent.

For these reasons, MACo recommends the Committee issue a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 83.