



Senate Bill 83

Public Safety - School Safety Enforcement Fund

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

Date: January 26, 2016

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Robin Clark Eilenberg

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 83 WITH AMENDMENTS**. 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 have concerns that expanding the fund's purpose and applicant pool, while removing the cap for applications could create undue competition between local law enforcement agencies and could result in an uneven distribution of funds amongst Maryland's counties. We offer a complementary amendment to address these concerns, consistent with the bill's overall intent.

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

(suggested amendment on next page)

SB 83 Amendment Offered by: Maryland Association of Counties

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 3, in line 26, after (3), insert:

“(3) The geographic distribution of grant recipients throughout the State of Maryland; and
(4)”.