



Senate Bill 310

Improving the State Procurement Oversight Structure

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health and Government Operations Committee

Date: March 29, 2017

From: Barbara Zektick

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 310. This bill implements recommendations made by the Commission to Modernize State Procurement, including those concerning restructuring and reorganizing the Procurement Advisory Council into the Procurement Improvement Council. Most relevantly to MACo, the bill charges the new Council with coordinating with local entities to maximize use of intergovernmental purchasing.

MACo supports efforts to maximize use of intergovernmental purchasing so that counties can benefit from economies of scale, colleagues' procurement expertise, and improved efficiencies from piggy-backing off of contracts procured using the same principles and factors relevant to multiple jurisdictions. MACo agrees with the Commission that "when used correctly, Cooperative Purchasing Agreements are a useful procurement tool[.]"¹ Cooperative purchasing arrangements save counties time and resources, allow for purchasing in bulk to get better prices, and enable multiple jurisdictions to reap the benefits of a well-procured contract. All of these results translate into savings to taxpayers and more resources for vital public services. MACo values efforts to maximize use of this tool fairly and effectively.

MACo appreciates the extensive, hard work completed by the Commission to recommend nearly 60 improvements that allow the State to get the best deals, most efficiently, in the fairest and most transparent manner. MACo especially appreciates the Commission's recommendations which also allow counties to reap benefits from improved coordination on procurement, including this recommendation to maximize cooperative purchasing arrangements. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 310 a **FAVORABLE** report.

¹ Report of the Commission to Modernize State Procurement, December 1, 2016, page 10