



BILL NO.: Senate Bill 345
TITLE: Environment – Water and Sewer Authorities – Number of Directors
POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**
DATE: February 21, 2012
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
CONTACT: Leslie Knapp Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 345 **WITH AMENDMENTS**. The bill would give local jurisdictions greater flexibility to set the number of directors serving on their water and sewer authorities.

Under current law, for water and sewer authorities that have two or more political subdivisions the number of directors is the greater of five or the number of member political subdivisions. As introduced, the bill would increase from the minimum number of directors for a water and sewer authority from five to seven. Amendments offered by the bill’s sponsor would allow an authority to choose whether to set five or seven as the minimum number of directors.

For some counties, being able to set a higher number of directors would allow for better representation from interested stakeholders in the county. Such expanded representation is more important where an authority seeks to address issues from a regional and collaborative perspective. The proposed amendments would allow an authority the option of keeping with the existing law and not potentially disrupting a situation where the number of directors has already been settled.

With the proposed sponsor amendments, SB 345 would provide some water and sewer authorities greater latitude when determining its number of directors without forcing existing authorities to revisit their director structure. Accordingly, MACo recommends the Committee issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 88.