



Senate Bill 348

Environment – Liquid Waste Hauler – Vehicle License and Inspection

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee

Date: February 16, 2016

From: Leslie Knapp, Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 348. The bill would replace a system of local vehicle inspections and fees for liquid waste haulers with a more centralized State-controlled system.

SB 348 would require the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to create a new annual vehicle licensing requirement for liquid waste haulers. MDE must inspect and approve each vehicle before it can issue that vehicle a waste hauler license. The inspection duty can be delegated to a county health department. MDE may set reasonable fees to cover the cost of licensing and inspections. If MDE delegates the inspection authority to a local health department, the local department may set a reasonable inspection fee.

Currently, various county health departments already conduct vehicle inspections and impose inspection fees that are based on local needs and capabilities. A county has an interest in insuring that liquid waste haulers conduct their business within the county in a safe manner and use vehicles that comply with relevant county safety protocols. SB 348 would seek to impose a “one size fits all” inspection solution that ignores individual local circumstances.

SB 348 would replace an existing and functioning local inspection system with a more State-controlled system that will be less likely to account for individual county concerns with the inspection of liquid waste hauler vehicles. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** report for SB 348.