



Senate Bill 526

Counties and Municipalities – Required Legislation or Regulations – Adoption by Reference

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environmental Matters Committee

Date: March 28, 2013

From: Leslie Knapp Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 526. This bill streamlines the cumbersome process of local governments adopting State-required provisions. **MACo supports this bill, and also supports conforming it to the Committee's previous action on the companion bill, HB 1076.**

The bill would authorize a county or municipality to adopt a State law or regulation by reference if the law or regulation requires that the local jurisdiction adopt provisions that are at least as strict as the law or regulation. If a local jurisdiction adopts a law or regulation by reference, the jurisdiction must specify: (1) whether it also adopts by reference any subsequent amendments to the law or regulation; and (2) any exceptions to the law or regulation if local options are allowed.

SB 526 would help local governments streamline their adoption process of complicated State laws and regulations, such as those pertaining to the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coastal Bays critical areas. Rather than having to draft local versions of the critical area provisions, it would be far more efficient and much easier to be able to simply adopt those provisions by reference.

The Committee adopted clarifying amendments to HB 1076, the House version of SB 526. MACo is not opposed to these same amendments being added to SB 526 so that the bills are identical.

SB 526 would allow for a more streamlined and efficient local adoption process of large and complicated State laws and regulations. The bill does not have a State fiscal cost and would provide some administrative relief to local governments. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to adopt a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 526.