



Senate Bill 855

2020 Census Grant Program - Establishment and Funding

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget & Taxation Committee

Date: March 7, 2018

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 855 as it provides counties with a new tool to help support a full, fair, and accurate count of all residents in the State of Maryland.

Under the bill, local governments and nonprofit organizations may apply for matching grant funds to promote a fair and equitable 2020 Census. Local, state, and federal governments, businesses, nonprofits, and foundations all rely on census-track data to allocate funding, measure impact, and make strategic decisions around service delivery and economic development.

Census data is used to allocate billions of dollars in federal funding for education, health, transportation, housing, community services, and job training. Moreover, businesses and industries decide where to locate new facilities and services based on census data, creating new jobs and promoting economic growth.

An accurate census count, or lack thereof, has a lasting effect on counties, particularly when it comes to the distribution of federal funds. An under-counted population may lead to a significant decline in federal funding flowing to county governments or to county residents.

SB 855 creates an efficient and effective system for leveraging state and local resources to support a more accurate 2020 Census, paving the way for a fair and equitable flow of resources to the State and its local jurisdictions.

Accordingly, MACo recommends the Committee issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 855.