



Senate Bill 924

Public Health – Splash Pads – Regulations

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Finance Committee

Date: March 2, 2018

From: Leslie Knapp, Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 924 **WITH AMENDMENTS**. The bill allows for the regulation of the sanitary condition of splash pads.

SB 924 provides that the Secretary of Health may adopt rules and regulations to govern the sanitary condition of splash pads and any sanitary feature connected to a splash pad. “Splash pad” is defined as an outdoor play area: (1) with sprinklers, fountains, nozzles, and other devices or structures that spray water; (2) in which water is not allowed to accumulate; and (3) that is not used for submersion of the human body.

Under current law, splash pads must meet the same regulatory requirements as public pools, including having certain design features for safety purposes. However, there may be other sanitary concerns (such as having restrooms within a certain distance of a splash pad) that are not currently covered.

MACo supports the idea of addressing the sanitary condition of splash pads and any sanitary feature connected to them but believes that any such regulation should be crafted at the county level. Counties are better able to tailor regulations to meet local concerns and issues, and avoid the potential drawbacks of a “one-size-fits-all” approach.

Therefore, MACo offers an amendment providing that the governing body of a county may adopt and enforce the rules and regulations, rather than the Secretary of Health. The amendment language mirrors the language found in HB 1217, which is the cross-file to SB 924.

SB 924 would allow regulation of the sanitary condition of splash pads and connected sanitary features. While supportive of the concept, MACo believes the regulatory authority should rest with the counties and not the State. Accordingly, MACo requests the Committee gives SB 924 a recommendation of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**.

MACo AMENDMENTS TO SB 924

On page 1, in line 21, strike “**SECRETARY**” and substitute “GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY”; and in the same line, after “**ADOPT**” insert “AND ENFORCE”.