



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

House Bill 270

Electrical Inspectors and Plumbing Inspectors – Master License Required

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Economic Matters Committee

Date: February 7, 2013

From: Robin J. Clark

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 270. HB 270 would require counties to employ only persons with certain licenses and certifications as electrical and plumbing inspectors. This bill would override county standards for electrical and plumbing inspectors, replacing them with a rigid one-size-fits-all approach.

Counties currently hire electrical and plumbing inspectors based on their knowledge and proficiency with the local electrical and plumbing code provisions which it is their duty to enforce. This bill requires counties to make hiring decisions on national and international standards that do not integrate a proficiency in the standards and rules applied in each of our 24 jurisdictions. In addition, this bill will require counties to pay higher salaries to new inspectors and compete for new inspectors in a market of professionals licensed to work in other capacities.

There is no record of safety concerns with counties' current licensing systems, which effectively serve and recognize each community. Further, there is substantial local regulation of electrical inspectors' education and training already in place. For this reason, additional regulation is not required. Accordingly, MACo recommends the Committee issue an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 270.