



## Senate Bill 916

### *Task Force to Study Licensing and Continuing Education Requirements for Electricians*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Economic Matters Committee

Date: March 27, 2013

From: Robin Clark

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 916 as amended. The bill establishes a Task Force to Study Licensing and Continuing Education Requirements for Electricians. As introduced, the charge of the Task Force was restricted to focusing on transitioning to a statewide electrician's license, and Task Force membership was limited. As amended, the Task Force's charge has been broadened and its membership expanded.

While MACo supported the concept of a stakeholder-driven study of licensing and continuing education requirements for electricians, it was concerned that the outlined objectives in the bill as introduced would lead to a pre-disposed outcome – namely a transition to a statewide licensing system. MACo was also concerned that the membership of the task force did not provide appropriate input from counties who offer journeyman licensing and those who require continuing education hours.

Working with the Senate sponsor and committee, the bill has been amended to address both of these concerns. As amended, the bill would broaden the focus of the Task Force to review appropriate approaches for licensure and also consider the effects of a preferred licensure approach on the electricians currently licensed and the boards that oversee licensing at the State and local level. Representation has also been expanded and defined to include one member from a local licensing board that licenses journeyman and one member from a local licensing board with an established continuing education program.

MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 916 as amended.