



2015 Legislative Session – MACo Highlights

DELIVERED ON COUNTY DRUG INITIATIVES – MACo secured passage of legislation to address the heroin crisis across the state by expanding a county-focused grant program for substance abuse treatment, and by securing civil immunity protections for properly trained law enforcement and first responders responding to a drug overdose call.

SUCCEEDED IN THE STATE'S BUDGET PLAN – MACo secured additional funds for local roadways, health departments, community colleges, local impact grants, and Program Open Space. Adopted budget language will moderate county fiscal effects associated with a pending local income tax case. Budget narrative continues an advisory council to oversee property assessments.

PREVAILED IN LOCAL LAND USE ISSUES – MACo ensured passage of a helpful bill on comprehensive plan authority, and retained reasonable charges for GIS products. MACo was also successful in securing interim discussions with the State Highway Administration on the highway entrance permit process.

PROTECTED LOCAL REVENUES – MACo successfully defeated or amended all bills introduced that would have mandated new property tax credits, and expanded exemptions from the personal property tax and local income tax; all of which would have cost counties millions.

SUPPORTED GOOD PUBLIC SAFETY REFORMS – MACo helped pass legislation advancing policies for the use of police body-worn cameras, focus the state on justice reinvestment (meaning savings for jails), and to require juvenile offenders awaiting trial be housed in juvenile facilities rather than adult jails.

DEFENDED COUNTY LIABILITY PROTECTIONS – MACo defeated bills that would have allowed a prevailing plaintiff to recover attorney fees in civil actions for constitutional violations against local governments, created a new workers' compensation presumption for law enforcement officers who wear duty belts, and altered established workers' compensation payment modification policies for permanent partial disability injuries.

MAINTAINED LOCAL AUTONOMY – MACo successfully amended or defeated numerous bills that encroached on local autonomy, defeating county telecommunication pre-emption, avoiding state-wide regulation of animal shelters, and providing for a study of the local effects of drone usage.

AVOIDED UNFUNDED MANDATES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEXITIES – MACo successfully opposed or amended burdensome or costly legislation by implementing community college collective bargaining, expanding sick leave policies, eliminating the homestead property tax credit application, undermining the tax sale process, creating a bottle deposit program, prohibiting lawn care pesticides on athletic fields, and making onerous and impractical changes to Maryland's Public Information Act.

MACo Legislative Statistics, 1995-2015

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
# OF BILLS INTRODUCED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY	2294	2299	2385	2227	2049	2347	2408	2427	1959	2482	2632	2856	2480	2641	2675	2700	2353	2580	2610	2672	2248
# OF BILLS PASSED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY	788	803	899	901	830	884	941	918	629	851	826	901	707	945	769	810	707	791	766	811	692
# OF BILLS PRESENTED TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE	125	127	115	95	87	107	86	78	87	110	93	172	94	101	150	165	107	126	130	139	144
% OF TOTAL BILLS INTRODUCED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY	5%	6%	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	6%	4%	4%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%
# OF BILLS COMMITTEE TOOK POSITION ON	72	80	61	60	52	58	56	51	53	68	56	88	58	64	116	127	90	101	101	121	124
% OF BILLS PRESENTED TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE	58%	63%	53%	63%	60%	54%	65%	65%	61%	62%	60%	51%	62%	63%	77%	77%	84%	80%	78%	87%	86%
# OF BILLS ACTION TAKEN W/O PRIOR LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE APPROVAL	4	7	3	3	3	12	6	4	3	1	1	13	3	2	11	9	7	3	6	8	3
# OF BILLS SUPPORTED	44	51	38	40	38	55	42	31	32	49	31	54	38	41	47	74	67	68	60	79	78
# OF BILLS OPPOSED	29	29	23	23	17	15	20	24	24	20	26	47	23	37	59	53	20	33	46	42	45
# OF BILLS NO POSITION TAKEN	48	47	54	35	35	46	31	27	29	32	37	84	36	25	34	38	20	25	30	18	20

Measuring MACo's Success for 2015

MACo Supported	
Bill Passed	13
Bill Objective Achieved by Other Means	1
Bill Passed with Amendments Eliminating MACo Support	13
Bill Failed	13
Success Rate	52%

MACo Supported only with Requested Amendments	
Bill Passed with MACo Amendments	4
Bill Failed	13
Bill Objective Achieved by Other Means	2
Bill passed without MACo Amendments	1
Success Rate	95%

MACo Opposed	
Bill Failed	28
Bill Passed with Amendments Acceptable to MACo	3
Bill Passed Despite MACo Objections	1
Success Rate	97%

MACo's 2015 Overall Success Rate = 64/79 = 81%

Notes: Starting with the 2010 session, MACo will count cross-filed bills as one single bill for purposes of the success rate figures but will include all bills in the statistics.