



House Bill 94

Vehicle Laws - Reduction of Speed Limits by Local Authorities

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation

Date: February 2, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 94. This bill grants local governments the ability to recognize public safety or neighborhood concerns, and decrease speeds to 15 miles per hour on roadways, following an appropriate engineering and traffic analysis.

Counties handle a wide range of road safety and maintenance responsibilities. These responsibilities include building and maintaining roads, distributing de-icing agents before a storm, plowing, speed enforcement, responding to accidents, planning and zoning approvals, etc. Establishing speed limits is already a local responsibility, governed by best practices, but the current state law limits the lower bounds of that local authority to 25 miles per hour, other than in Montgomery County and its municipalities.

This bill recognizes a reasonable process for communities to recognize specific instances where the 25 miles per hour standard may not fully preserve driver or pedestrian safety, and to act locally to remedy them. Such decisions would remain subject to an appropriate study and local accountability.

HB 94 represents another practical and reasonable tool for counties to protect our streets and mutual constituents. Accordingly, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 94 urges the Committee to grant a **FAVORABLE** report.