



## **Senate Bill 938**

### *Primary and Secondary Education – School Safety and Student Well-Being – Examination of Policies*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee

Date: March 15, 2023

From: Brianna January and Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 938. This bill would increase State grant funding designated to support facility safety programs and services like student dispute prevention and remediation and School Resource Officers. By increasing the annual Safe Schools Fund grant appropriation, the bill better equips local school systems and counties to provide safer educational environments.

Counties applaud SB 938's significant commitment to the safety and wellbeing of Maryland's public school students and staff. The bill and its dedicated State resources are particularly timely as school boards and counties around the state work to address the mental and behavioral health needs of students and secure school facilities with limited dedicated resources to do so.

Additionally, SB 938 offers greater flexibility in eligible uses of grants supported by the Safe Schools Fund, to include student conflict resolution for situations like fist fights and physical altercations – a concerning and dangerous problem for all Maryland students and school staff.

By increasing the annual appropriation for the Safe Schools Fund and providing greater flexibility for funding usage, SB 938 would aid local systems as they address one of the most daunting – and most important – challenges they face: providing safe schools conducive of the learning and prosperity of all Maryland schoolchildren. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 938 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.