



## House Bill 593

### *Criminal Law - Interference With Critical Infrastructure or a Public Safety Answering Point*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judiciary Committee

Date: February 10, 2026

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 593.

HB 593 bolsters Maryland's ability to prevent, deter, and respond to threats against critical infrastructure. Counties support this bill because disruptions to these systems create immediate public safety risks and can cascade across emergency response, public health, and basic services.

Counties operate and maintain essential infrastructure that underpins public safety, mobility, and basic services, including water and wastewater systems, public buildings, emergency operations facilities, transit operations, local road systems, and public safety networks. Counties also partner directly with private utilities and regional providers to coordinate security planning and emergency response.

Emergency managers plan for storms, floods, and major emergencies. But targeted disruption creates a different kind of threat, one designed to interrupt basic services and strain response capacity. This bill addresses that gap by expanding Maryland's protections for critical infrastructure and strengthening the State's ability to deter and prosecute intentional interference with essential systems.

Counties have invested heavily in resilience and continuity planning for these systems, including physical security upgrades, redundancy, and incident response coordination. HB 593 complements that work by providing clearer legal tools to address intentional interference and by reinforcing that critical infrastructure protection remains a shared priority across all levels of government.

This bill provides clear consequences for intentional interference, supports coordinated response, and protects essential systems that Maryland residents depend on. For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 593.