



## **Senate Bill 159**

### *Emergency Medical Services - Vehicles and Ambulances - Required Supplies, Reviews, and Complaints*

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee

Date: February 18, 2026

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 159. While the bill aims to strengthen Emergency Medical Service (EMS) performance and accountability statewide, it mandates broad, duplicative, and burdensome administrative and reporting requirements on local EMS systems.

**Counties share the goal of high-quality EMS care and already work every day to monitor performance, address complaints, and improve service delivery. However, SB 159 adds recurring compliance obligations that will require significant staff time and ongoing administrative work, without providing corresponding resources.**

Counties fund and oversee EMS through a wide range of local models, including county-operated services, municipal services, volunteer systems, and contracted providers. These systems already face persistent staffing challenges, including recruiting and retaining paramedics, EMTs, and dispatch personnel. This bill adds new documentation and reporting requirements that will compete directly with limited staffing capacity and operational priorities.

The bill requires quarterly reviews of ambulance performance data, formal certifications of those reviews, and submission of summaries to the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). The bill also requires each county to establish and maintain a formal complaint system with detailed requirements for tracking, investigation timelines, notifications, and quarterly reporting. These mandates would require new workflows, expanded recordkeeping, and ongoing reporting deadlines for frontline professionals.

This bill also directs MIEMSS to coordinate the minimum equipment, supplies, and medications required on EMS vehicles statewide. Counties support consistent clinical expectations, but the bill's broader administrative mandates remain the primary concern for local EMS systems.

Counties support accountability and continuous improvement in EMS. SB 159 aims to advance that goal, but the bill risks creating unintended consequences by diverting limited staff time from day-to-day operations and frontline response. For these reasons, MACo urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on SB 159.