



House Bill 32

Local Law Enforcement Vehicles - Requirements - Automated External Defibrillators

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Judiciary Committee

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From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 32. This bill requires each local law enforcement vehicle to carry an automated external defibrillator (AED) and maintain the functionality and certification of each AED.

Local governments share the goal of high-quality, timely, and sufficient medical care in the event of an emergency that requires a response from local law enforcement, but traditionally balances equipment needs across all responding agencies. Emergency medical services, law enforcement, and fire fighters, all – under need-based circumstances – carry AED machines. Additionally, these agencies already work every day, in collaboration, to monitor performance, address complaints, and improve service delivery.

While HB 32 attempts to make AED machines more widely available, it adds a costly equipment requirement, as well as ongoing administrative work, without providing corresponding resources. **Counties are responsible for the purchase and maintenance of equipment required by local law enforcement agencies and estimate that HB 32 could cost upwards of \$10-14 million statewide.** Additionally, the bill does not make clear if the machines are for all law enforcement vehicles or only officer squad cars. If the mandate is beyond squad cars, then the cost could be even greater than that estimate.

Counties support accountability and continuous improvement in law enforcement service delivery. HB 32 aims to advance that goal, but unfortunately puts a costly mandate on local governments that are already working diligently to balance the medical needs of residents during a call for service. For these reasons, MACo urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 32.