House Bill 1442

Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program - Definition, Application, and Workgroup - Modifications

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: March 10, 2026

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1442. This bill authorizes counties to form a community choice aggregator program, providing a new local option to procure electric generation services on behalf of residential and small commercial customers.

Under current law, a county may only act as an aggregator if the Public Service Commission (PSC) determines there is insufficient competition within the jurisdiction. HB 1442 modernizes this framework by expressly authorizing a county to serve as an electric aggregator for the purpose of negotiating the purchase of electric generation services from an electricity supplier. The incumbent electric utility continues to deliver the electricity and manages billing and distribution infrastructure; the county's role is limited to negotiating supply on behalf of participating customers.

HB 1442 further clarifies eligible entities and updates the work group structure to include representation from counties that have formally notified the PSC of their intent to pursue a community choice aggregation. If a county chooses to move forward, it must enact a local law and provide notice to customers. The county government is solely responsible for effects associated with any stranded costs related to supply contracts or generation owned by the community choice aggregator program.

Community choice aggregation is a tool that allows counties to seek more competitive rates on behalf of residents, pursue cleaner energy portfolios if locally desired, or design supply strategies tailored to community priorities. HB 1442 does not mandate action by any county, nor does it disrupt the existing utility delivery system. It simply empowers counties with a voluntary tool to explore cost savings, rate stability, and local energy policy goals while maintaining strong consumer protections and PSC oversight.

For these reasons, MACo respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1442.