



BILL NO.: House Bill 73  
TITLE: Environment – Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund – Use of Funds  
POSITION: **SUPPORT**  
DATE: April 1, 2010  
COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs  
CONTACT: Leslie Knapp Jr.

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 73. This departmental bill authorizes the Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund to provide grants, negative interest loans, forgiveness of principal, subsidized interest rates, and any other form of financial assistance authorized or required under: (1) Title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; (2) § 302 of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act; or (3) federal appropriations or authorization acts.

The Fund makes loans to local governments and other entities for water pollution control projects in accordance with State and federal law. HB 73 would allow the Fund to access additional federal funding, estimated at \$49 million for FY 2012 and \$47 million for FY 2013. With MACo support in 2009, the General Assembly passed HB 1417, making similar changes, enabling the Fund to qualify for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

The changes made by HB 73 are necessary to tap into additional federal funding. Accordingly, MACo recommends the Committee issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 73.