

An Affiliate of
The Maryland Association of Counties, Inc.



To: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors

Re: House Bill 238, Public Health- Clean Indoor Air Act- Revisions

The Maryland Department of Local Environmental Health Directors (Conference), an affiliate of The Maryland Association of Counties, **SUPPORTS SB244.**

This Bill revises the Clean Indoor Air Act to include vaping with the use of an electronic smoking device as the same as smoking. This Bill will now make it so a person may not smoke or vape, including any device that the user inhales aerosol containing hemp or cannabis in:

- (1) An indoor area open to the public;
- (2) An indoor place in which meetings are open to the public in accordance with Title 3 of the General Provisions Article;
- (3) A government-owned or government-operated means of mass transportation including buses, vans, trains, taxicabs, and limousines; or
- (4) An indoor place of employment.

Signage to add no smoking as well as no vaping shall be posted in all indoor areas open to the public.

Some Counties have passed local legislation to include vaping as the same as smoking. These changes will make it consistent across the State that vaping and smoking are prohibited in all indoor areas open to the public.

Accordingly, we ask the committee to give SB244 a **Favorable** vote.

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