



**Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association**

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To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: February 4, 2025

**Re: SB 513 – Favorable with Amendments**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of newspaper publications, from large metro dailies such as the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as the Star Democrat and Maryland Independent, to publications such as The Daily Record, Baltimore Jewish Times, and online-only publications such as the Baltimore Banner, Maryland Matters and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association urges the Committee amend SB 513 to create more clarity in the notice requirements proposed by the bill. SB 513 would allow a county or municipality to execute and record a restrictive covenant modification to an unlawfully restrictive covenant if, among other requirements, the entity publishes a notice in a newspaper of general circulation, or posts on the door or bulletin board of the courthouse or posts on the official website of the county or municipality where the property is located. This bill provides three options for notice to be provided to the community at large, which requires community members who do not have an ownership interest in the property to constantly check three different venues on the possibility that this notice would appear. That places an undue burden on community members and defeats the purpose of the enhanced notice requirements.

We agree that more notice is better notice, and suggest replacing “OR” with “AND” at the end of Page f2, Line 31. This would mean that in addition to the first class mail notice to property owners, the community would be notified of the county or municipality’s action by publishing in the local newspaper (and by extension its website), posting on the door / bulletin board of the courthouse AND by posting on the official website of the county or municipality, recognizing that news publications have a far wider audience reach than government websites.

This amendment would bring this bill in line with the best practices of public notices, which means they should be independent, accessible, verifiable, and reach the widest possible audience to ensure trust in the process and information.

We respectfully ask for the bill to be amended.



**We believe a strong news media is  
central to a strong and open society.**