

HOUSE BILL 1119

P2

5lr2471

By: **Delegate Foley**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Procurement – Advertising – Local News Organizations**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a unit of State government to ensure that at least a certain
4 amount of the unit’s total dollar value of procurement contracts for print and digital
5 advertising is being made directly to local news organizations; and generally relating
6 to procurement contracts made to local news organizations.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – State Finance and Procurement

9 Section 14–419

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

15 **14–419.**

16 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “LOCAL NEWS ORGANIZATION” MEANS AN**
17 **ENTITY THAT:**

18 **(I) ENGAGES PROFESSIONALS TO CREATE, EDIT, PRODUCE,**
19 **AND DISTRIBUTE ORIGINAL CONTENT CONCERNING MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**
20 **THROUGH REPORTING, CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS, OBSERVING CURRENT EVENTS,**
21 **OR ANALYZING INFORMATION;**

22 **(II) HAS AT LEAST ONE EMPLOYEE WHO:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 1. **IS EMPLOYED FULL TIME;**
- 2 2. **IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING COVERAGE OF EVENTS**
3 **IN MARYLAND; AND**
- 4 3. **RESIDES IN MARYLAND OR WITHIN 50 MILES OF**
5 **MARYLAND;**

6 **(III) IN THE CASE OF A PRINT PUBLICATION, HAS PUBLISHED AT**
7 **LEAST ONE PRINT PUBLICATION PER MONTH OVER THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS AND:**

- 8 1. **HOLDS A VALID U.S. POSTAL SERVICE PERIODICAL**
9 **PERMIT; OR**
- 10 2. **HAS AT LEAST 25% OF ITS CONTENT DEDICATED TO**
11 **LOCAL NEWS;**

12 **(IV) IN THE CASE OF AN ENTITY THAT PUBLISHES CONTENT**
13 **ONLY IN DIGITAL FORM:**

- 14 1. **HAS PUBLISHED AT LEAST ONE PIECE ABOUT EVENTS**
15 **IN MARYLAND PER WEEK OVER THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS; AND**
- 16 2. **FOR WHICH AT LEAST 33% OF ITS AUDIENCE,**
17 **AVERAGED OVER A 12-MONTH PERIOD, IS LOCATED IN MARYLAND;**

18 **(V) HAS DISCLOSED, IN ITS PRINT PUBLICATION OR ON ITS**
19 **WEBSITE:**

- 20 1. **ITS BENEFICIAL OWNERS; OR**
- 21 2. **IN THE CASE OF A NONPROFIT ENTITY, ITS BOARD OF**
22 **DIRECTORS; AND**

23 **(VI) IN THE CASE OF AN ENTITY THAT MAINTAINS TAX STATUS**
24 **UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, HAS DECLARED**
25 **COVERAGE OF LOCAL OR STATE NEWS AS ITS STATED MISSION IN A FILING WITH THE**
26 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.**

27 **(2) “LOCAL NEWS ORGANIZATION” DOES NOT INCLUDE AN ENTITY**
28 **THAT RECEIVES MORE THAN 50% OF ITS GROSS RECEIPTS FROM:**

1 **(I) A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION DESCRIBED IN 26 U.S.C. § 527;**
2 **OR**

3 **(II) ANY ORGANIZATION THAT MAINTAINS STATUS UNDER 26**
4 **U.S.C. § 501(c)(4), (5), OR (6).**

5 **(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY PROCUREMENT CONTRACT FOR**
6 **PRINT OR DIGITAL ADVERTISING TO BE PUBLISHED OR BROADCAST OUTSIDE**
7 **MARYLAND FOR THE PURPOSES OF:**

8 **(1) PROMOTING TOURISM TO THE STATE; OR**

9 **(2) EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT.**

10 **(C) A UNIT SHALL STRUCTURE PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES TO ACHIEVE**
11 **AN OVERALL GOAL OF 50% OF THE UNIT'S TOTAL DOLLAR VALUE OF PROCUREMENT**
12 **CONTRACTS FOR PRINT OR DIGITAL ADVERTISING BEING MADE DIRECTLY TO LOCAL**
13 **NEWS ORGANIZATIONS.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2025.