

HOUSE BILL 43

P2
HB 1119/25 – HGO

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0643
CF 6lr1389

By: **Delegate Foley**

Requested: July 23, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Procurement – Advertising – Local News Organizations**
3 **(Local Newspapers for Maryland Communities Act of 2026)**

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

8 BY adding to
9 Article – State Finance and Procurement
10 Section 14–419
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

16 **14–419.**

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(II) HAS AT LEAST ONE EMPLOYEE WHO:

1. IS EMPLOYED FULL TIME;

2. IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING COVERAGE OF EVENTS
IN MARYLAND; AND

3. RESIDES IN MARYLAND OR WITHIN 50 MILES OF
MARYLAND;

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

1. HOLDS A VALID U.S. POSTAL SERVICE PERIODICAL
PERMIT; OR

2. HAS AT LEAST 25% OF ITS CONTENT DEDICATED TO
LOCAL NEWS;

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

1. HAS PUBLISHED AT LEAST ONE PIECE ABOUT EVENTS
IN MARYLAND PER WEEK OVER THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS; AND

2. FOR WHICH AT LEAST 33% OF ITS AUDIENCE,
AVERAGED OVER A 12-MONTH PERIOD, IS LOCATED IN MARYLAND;

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

1. ITS BENEFICIAL OWNERS; OR

2. IN THE CASE OF A NONPROFIT ENTITY, ITS BOARD OF
DIRECTORS; AND

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

(2) "LOCAL NEWS ORGANIZATION" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN ENTITY
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, 2026.