



Larry Hogan  
Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor  
Gregory Slater  
Acting Secretary

Office of the Secretary

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 272 – Public Information Act – Required Denials – Sociological Information and Distribution Lists**

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 272 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

MDOT is committed to protecting the privacy of Maryland citizens and the personal data we possess in order to conduct business with the public. Releasing a personal address, regardless of a requestor's sworn use, would disclose private sociological information. Such a release could produce unwanted targeting for political, commercial, or business gain. An individual's personal address could be a mental hospital or rehab facility or result in the unwanted exposure of a person in a domestic abuse situation. Due to these reasons and others, MDOT is not legally permitted to release personally identifiable information (PII), including personal contact information, such as home addresses.

Allowing distribution lists to leave a custodian's possession would once again raise concerns over personal information privacy and protection that could lead to cyber, financial, or other types of harm to those individuals whose information is released. The proposed legislation could also lead to the release of other personal information, such as email addresses. There is nothing that allows the public to opt out of their information being provided should these bills become law. Additionally, HB 272 neither defines a clear penalty to those who violate the sworn statement, nor does it provide recourse for those whose personal information is subject to a breach or other nefarious activity. The automatic denial provided by the current law removes any ambiguity and ensures that personal information is protected.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as it deliberates House Bill 272.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maryland Department of Transportation  
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