



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: Health & Government Operations Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: February 11, 2021

Re: **HB 344 - SUPPORT**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of newspaper publications, from large metro dailies like the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as The Frederick News Post and Hagerstown Herald-Mail to publications such as The Daily Record, Baltimore Jewish Times, and online-only publications such as, Baltimore Fishbowl, MarylandReporter.com and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association is pleased to support House Bill 344, which would uniformly require State agencies and local boards of elections to make (in non-emergency situations) agendas available on their websites at least 48 hours in advance and to live-stream or audio stream the open proceedings.

This is a common-sense standard that will enable the public – and press – to understand the items that are to be covered in upcoming meetings and to plan for attendance.

Transparency is important to democracy's function. Citizens should have access to the deliberations and meetings of public bodies, including state agencies and local boards of election.



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central to a strong and open society.**

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