



**Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association**

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To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Matters Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: February 15, 2022

**Re: SB 307 - SUPPORT**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of news media organizations, from large metro dailies like the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as The Annapolis Capital and the Maryland Gazette to publications such as The Daily Record, the Baltimore Times, and online-only publications such as MarylandReporter.com and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association is pleased to support SB 307, which clarifies that public records include all communications made or received by a public official or employee of the state or political subdivision, whether those communications are written, electronic, or recorded audio or video. It also classifies the Governor's office as a "unit" subject to records management.

We believe this is an important clarification that codifies that these records, regardless of format, and firmly places them under the Public Information Act. Journalists rely on public records as a central part of their reporting and our members welcome the clarity of this legislation.

The Press Association urges a favorable report.



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

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