



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 269 - 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 Frederick News Post to publications such as The Daily Record, the Baltimore Times, and online-only publications such as Bethesda Beat and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association is pleased to support SB 269, which brings several public bodies firmly into the under the Open Meetings Act.

We believe this legislation is an important clarification that will bring more transparency and openness to bodies that have sometimes been shrouded in secrecy. Many of the entities listed in the legislation, (MD Economic Development Corporation, the MD Stadium Authority, MD Clean Energy Center, and the Bainbridge Development Corporation) have been cited by the Open Meetings Compliance Board for violations of the Open Meetings Act and this legislation clarifies that they are subject to the OMA. Further, we welcome the clarity provided to public bodies such as the State Board of Elections, the Maryland 9-1-1 Board, and others that will ensure that minutes will be made available for a minimum of five years after the meeting and an unedited archive recording will be maintained for at least one year. Journalists rely on meetings of public bodies as central parts 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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