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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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**Support SB 307: Public Records - Retention and Inspection - Communication  
(Transparency in Public Records Act of 2022)**

**Why is SB 307 needed?**

- Contemporary messaging applications that can automatically delete messages present concerning vulnerabilities in Maryland’s public record retention policies.
- The current definition of “public record” and “record” in Maryland law does not explicitly include modern forms of communication, allowing for contradictory interpretations by government officials.
- Under the current statute, the term “unit of the government” does not explicitly include the Office of the Governor.
- SB 307 is needed to clarify that the Office of the Governor is subject to the same public record laws as other state agencies.

**What does SB 307 do?**

- SB 307 alters the definition of “public record” and “record” to include any written, electronic, or recorded audio or video communication relating to public business.
- SB 307 alters the definition of “governmental unit” to include the Office of the Governor.

**What does SB 307 accomplish?**

- SB 307 updates the law to explicitly include all modern forms of communication in the definition of “public record” and “record.”
- SB 307 ensures that all parts of government, including the most influential public officials, are held to the highest standards of transparency.
- SB 307 will affirm public confidence in government by ensuring all records relating to public business are subject to the appropriate record retention policies, especially that of the office of the Governor.