



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: March 24, 2022

Re: **SB 1002 - OPPOSE**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of newspaper publications, from large metro dailies such as 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 concerned about the transparency implications of SB 1002, which would allow all charter and code counties in Maryland to create short-term (five years or less) non-renewable leases without providing notice to the public. Currently, all leases as well as dispositions or grants of county property must be published in the newspaper and include the terms and compensation as well as provide an opportunity for objection.

Short term, non-renewable leases may have a significant effect within the county and its populace. The public has a right to know to whom and how their taxpayer-funded property is being leased. This bill would also take out a statutory requirement to provide an opportunity for public objection or comment.

We urge an unfavorable report.



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