

Testimony in Support of HB 395 - Public Records - Retention and Inspection - Communications  
(Transparency in Public Records Act of 2022)  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
February 15, 2022

FAVORABLE

TO: Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Myles Hicks, Maryland Rise

My name is Myles Hicks and I'm the executive director of Maryland Rise. Our mission is to ensure that our state government and economy work for the majority of residents, not just those at the top. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 395, the Transparency in Public Records Act of 2022.

This measure brings the Public Information Act and the State records management program into the present and anticipates further technological advances that could intersect with the public's right to access and the state's responsibility to provide accurate and complete public records.

This needed proposal will prevent the destruction of public records and ensure that the public has the security of knowing that their business is being conducted in the open and that they have access to the record of that business. It ensures government transparency at the highest levels of our state while preserving the assertion of executive privilege and attorney-client privilege.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB 395.

Thank you,

Myles Hicks  
Executive Director  
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