



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: Health & Government Operations Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: January 18, 2022

Re: **HB 163 - SUPPORT**

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 pleased to support House Bill 163, which does three specific things to further transparency and close loopholes in the PIA: clarifies that a “distribution list” does not include recipients of a notice of a specific action by a government body; prohibits the inclusion of those recipients in a definition of “sociological information;” and requires that a requestor acknowledge that such notices will not be used for commercial purposes.

These are specific and tailored steps to increase transparency prompted by the overly broad use of this exemption by the Department of Transportation. We urge a favorable report.



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