

# THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

203 South Fourth Street - Courthouse - Room 207 Oakland, Maryland 21550

www.garrettcountry.org countycommissioners@garrettcountry.org

301-334-8970

301-895-3188

FAX 301-334-5000

## Board of Commissioners

Paul C. Edwards  
Ryan S. Savage  
S. Larry Tichnell

## County Administrator

Kevin G. Null

## County Attorney

Gorman E. Getty III

## House Ways and Means Committee

### Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 671

### Garrett County – Board of County Commissioners – Meetings

### Mr. Paul C. Edwards, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

### Garrett County

February 24, 2023

The Board of Garrett County Commissioners supports House Bill 671, Garrett County – Board of County Commissioners – Meetings

The current provision of the law states that *the Board of County Commissioners will meet in public session weekly*. By practice, the Board of County Commissioners meets in public session biweekly and since the Covid-19 pandemic has also been live-streaming public meetings.

The intent of this legislation is to have our current practice of biweekly meetings be in compliance with the law. We request that this language be added - ***Public meetings may be in person or live streamed*** which clearly defines that a live-streamed meeting is considered a public meeting.

Based on citizen input, we request that the following language be added to ensure that future Boards not conduct a public meeting only via live streaming except in a state of emergency - ***A Board of Garrett County Commissioners may not meet solely via live streaming for more than two (2) consecutive meetings without a formal declaration of a State of Emergency.***

The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 671 and believes it offers the citizens the opportunity to participate in county government meetings.

Thank you for your consideration and support for HB 671