



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: House Health & Government Operations Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: March 6, 2023

Re: **SUPPORT HB 1051**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of news media organizations, from large metro dailies like the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as The Annapolis Capital and the Maryland Gazette to publications such as The Daily Record, the Baltimore Times, and online-only publications such as Maryland Matters and Baltimore Brew.

We write in support of HB 1051, which clarifies that decisions made by a circuit court on judicial review of a decision made by the Public Information Act Compliance Board may appeal to the Appellate Court of Maryland.

This simple clarification ensures that appeals from the PIA Compliance Board and circuit courts are treated in the same manner. This ambiguity came about with the 2022 reforms to the PIA. This bill will solidify the PIA Compliance Board's expanded jurisdiction and encourage requesters to use the Board for potentially precedent-setting decisions, rather than bypassing the Board in favor of securing a right to appeal.

PIA Compliance Board decisions should not be treated differently from circuit court decisions under the PIA for purposes of appellate review.

We urge a favorable report.

