



**Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association**

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To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: February 13, 2023

Re: **HB 58 - SUPPORT**

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 Frederick News Post to publications such as The Daily Record, the Baltimore Times, and online-only publications such as Bethesda Beat and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association is pleased to support HB 58, which brings the State Ethics Commission firmly under the Open Meetings Act.

We believe this legislation is an important clarification that will bring more transparency and openness to bodies that have sometimes been shrouded in secrecy. In past years, similar legislation has ensured that various public bodies are subject to the OMA. Further, we welcome the clarity that the State Ethics Commission will ensure that minutes will be made available for a minimum of five years after the meeting and an unedited archive recording will be maintained for at least one year. Journalists rely on meetings of public bodies as central parts of their reporting and our members welcome the clarity of this legislation.

The Press Association urges a favorable report.



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central to a strong and open society.**

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