



**Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association**

P.O. Box 26214 | Baltimore, MD 21210

443-768-3281 | [rsnyder@mddcpress.com](mailto:rsnyder@mddcpress.com)

[www.mddcpress.com](http://www.mddcpress.com)

To: Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: March 6, 2024

**Re: SB 811 – INFORMATION ONLY**

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 Star Democrat and Dorchester Banner, to publications such as The Daily Record, Baltimore Jewish Times, and online-only publications such as the Baltimore Banner, MoCo 360, Maryland Matters and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association has worked diligently with the House and Senate sponsors on amendments to this legislation. This bill arises out of a concern that both of the Dorchester news publications, the Star Democrat, publishing in print 4 days each week AND the Dorchester Banner, publishing weekly, would cease print publication. Every jurisdiction in Maryland is served by an appropriate publication for public notice.

The agreed-upon amendments in the House, which has recently passed out of subcommittee, narrows the bill to notices placed by Dorchester County government itself, keeps notices in publications that have both a print and online version, allows the "clock" to begin running on the notice at first publication, whether that is in the print or digital version of the news media publication, and allows for online-only publication if there is no qualifying publication that publishes in print and online. In communications with Senate sponsor, we understand the intention is to conform the Senate bill to the House bil.

We believe firmly that public notices are most accessible, archiveable and independent when they are published in print newspapers.



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central to a strong and open society.**

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