



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: Senate Energy, Education & the Environment Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: February 4, 2025

Re: **SUPPORT SB 145**

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.

The Press Association, Common Cause MD and the Public Justice Center write in support of SB 145, which reclassifies the records relating to an administrative or criminal investigation of misconduct by an elected official or a person appointed to fill an elected office. Allowing public access to the closed records of the State Ethics board allows the public more visibility into the patterns of behavior of public officials. The State of Maryland provides this level of access to police personnel records and this bill normalizes that access to public officials, which hold a large degree of public trust.

The public has a right to know the actions of public officials in office and the outcome of misconduct investigations. This transparency builds trust in government and helps create meaningful steps to open government.

We urge a favorable report.

