



February 20, 2025

Senate Bill 554

**Public Information Act - Frivolous, Vexatious, or Abusive Requests - Remedies
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 554 – Public Information Act - Frivolous, Vexatious, or Abusive Requests - Remedies. This Bill would allow counties to file a complaint with the State Public Information Act Compliance Board or circuit court for an order to ignore abusive requests.

The right to access government records granted by the Public Information Act is a vital instrument in safeguarding our democracy. Its proper application promotes democracy by helping the public better understand government decisions through transparency and empowers an informed citizenry to hold their government accountable. However, abusive requests made in bad faith threaten this right. Anne Arundel commits a significant amount of time and resources to help fulfill Public Information Act requests because we value transparency and accountability. Abusive requests place an undue strain on county resources that impede our duty to honor valid requests.

This Bill does not tolerate noncompliance with the Public Information Act. It simply grants counties the ability to file a reasonable complaint to ignore abusive requests and future requests on the same issue, hence saving time and resources that could be dedicated to fulfilling valid requests. Accordingly, Anne Arundel County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 554.