



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

P.O. Box 26214 | Baltimore, MD 21210

443-768-3281 | rsnyder@mddcpres.com

www.mddcpres.com

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: February 18, 2025

Re: HB 563 - OPPOSE

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, Bethesda Today, Maryland Matters and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association asks for an unfavorable report on HB 563, which would allow Dorchester County government to exempt leases of five years or less from public notice requirements. We believe that this change would lead to more secrecy in government real estate decisions.

Public notice statutes require governments to share information about their actions. Disposition of real estate, even on a lease, is a matter of considerable public interest. Diminishing the public's right to know on these matters is not good public policy.

We urge an unfavorable report.



**We believe a strong news media is
central to a strong and open society.**

Read local news from around the region at www.mddcnews.com