



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: Judiciary Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: January 22, 2025

Re: MDDC SUPPORT HB 74

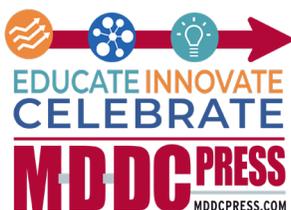
The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of newspaper publications, from large metro dailies such as the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as the Star Democrat and Dorchester Banner, to publications such as The Daily Record, Baltimore Jewish Times, and online-only publications such as the Baltimore Banner, Maryland Matters and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association has worked with the sponsor, Delegate Foley, on this legislation which is a continuation of legislation passed in 2024 ([HB594](#)) that allowed the Dorchester county government to “start the clock” on public notices by placing the notices in either the website or printed version of the local newspaper of general circulation, whichever occurred first. This bill recognized that print deadlines sometimes posed timing difficulties for local governments. The notices would still appear in both the print and digital versions of the publication.

This bill continues that path and allows local governments across the state to follow in Dorchester county’s footsteps. It focuses on notices placed by local government, 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. This bill preserves the tenets of good public notice: independence, accessibility, and a verifiable archive. These elements are found in news media and this bill preserves public notice in newspapers.

Although every jurisdiction in Maryland has at least one printed newspaper, this bill recognizes that some non-daily publication deadlines can create timing issues for local governments to post notices.

We urge a favorable report.



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

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