



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: February 4, 2025

Re: **HB 412 - SUPPORT**

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 Frederick News Post to publications such as The Daily Record, the Baltimore Times, and online-only publications such as Bethesda Today and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association is pleased to support HB 412, which brings local Elections Boards and Boards of Canvassers firmly under the Open Meetings Act.

We believe this legislation is an important clarification that will bring more transparency and openness to bodies that have sometimes been shrouded in secrecy. In past years, similar legislation has ensured that various public bodies are subject to the OMA, and this bill continues that trend. Further, we welcome the clarity that these Boards will ensure that any livestreams will be archived in a complete and unedited format for a minimum of five years after the meeting. Journalists rely on meetings of public bodies as central parts of their reporting and our members welcome the clarity of this legislation.

The Press Association urges a favorable report.



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

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