



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 9, 2026

Re: **SUPPORT SB 144**

The Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association (MDDC) represents a diverse membership of news media organizations. Our membership includes large metro dailies such as *The Washington Post* and *The Baltimore Sun*, hometown newspapers such as *The Star Democrat* and *Dorchester Star*, specialty publications such as *The Daily Record* and *Baltimore Jewish Times*, and leading online news organizations such as *Baltimore Banner*, *Maryland Matters*, and *Baltimore Brew*. Our membership spans both for-profit and nonprofit models and reflects the full ecosystem of local journalism that Marylanders depend on every day. Our members rely on public records to inform Marylanders about how government power is exercised.

The Press Association supports SB 144, 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.



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