



## **POSITION STATEMENT**

**Bill:** SB 121 Personal Information - Public Servant Protections

**Position:** Informational

**Date:** February 12, 2026

**Contact:** Debra Borden, General Counsel

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Dear Chair Senator Brian Feldman,

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC or “the Commission”) has not voted on this bill. However, staff have prepared an informational statement.

**What the Bill Does.** This bill authorizes a certain protected individual or the agency, entity, or office that the protected individual serves or served to request that a governmental entity or person not publish personal information on the Internet, social media, social networks or that the governmental entity or person remove the information from any existing publication. It further specifies certain procedures for the protection of personal information of a protected individual. It authorizes certain relief for a violation of this Act and establishes a criminal penalty for publicly posting the personal information of one protected individual under certain circumstances. Additionally, it establishes the Public Servant Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Secretary of State.

**Transparency vs. Security.** Safeguarding the personal information of protected individuals is not just a legal obligation for the Commission; it represents our commitment to furthering trust in our agency by the public and helping to ensure the safety of the people who keep government functioning. M-NCPPC takes the handling of public records seriously, and SB121 provides clear guidance and procedures for the Commission to follow for protected individuals.

### Suggested Recommendations

**1) Define “governmental entity” with reference to State Government Article, Section 10-1501 (which states as follows: Governmental entity means a State or local entity. (1) “Local entity” means a county, municipal corporation, bicounty or multicounty agency, public authority, special taxing district, or other political subdivision or unit of a political subdivision of this State. (2) “Local entity” includes boards of education and library boards that receive funding from the State.) This is how it was defined in the Wilkinson Act (State Government Article, Section 3-2301, et seq).**

**2) Require the government agency/employer to make the request on behalf of the individual, otherwise we will have to confirm that the request is legitimate and that the individual is in fact a “protected individual.”** The Wilkinson Act (protecting judges) required requests to originate from the Office of Information Privacy (OIP), which is responsible for verification of the individual’s identity. We suggest following this established protocol.