



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: Government, Labor & Elections Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: March 2, 2026

Re: HB703 – UNFAVORABLE

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of news media organizations. Our membership ranges from large metro dailies such as the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as the Star Democrat and Dorchester Star, to publications such as The Daily Record, Baltimore Jewish Times, and online-only publications such as the Baltimore Banner, Maryland Matters and Baltimore Brew. Our membership spans both for-profit and nonprofit organizations and reflects the full ecosystem of local journalism relied upon by Marylanders every day.

The Press Association opposes HB703.

This bill 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.