



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

House Bill 15

Public Information Act - Public Records - Nonprofit Organizations

Date: February 10, 2026
To: Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

Position: **UNFAVORABLE**
From: Matt Stegman,
MD Staff Attorney

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES House Bill 15** which would make the provisions of the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA) applicable to any nonprofit organization that receives \$50,000 or more in annual funding from various State sources. CBF does not oppose transparency of State spending generally, nor do we ourselves have any reason to believe our operations would not stand up to public scrutiny. However, the bill as drafted does not address any nuance or limit to the scope of records subject to inspection other than the grant threshold. For example, it is unclear how General Provisions Art. §4-102 is applicable to the operations and record-keeping requirements of a nonprofit.

Additionally, responding to PIA inquiries presents a potentially significant administrative burden to nonprofits that may be covered under the Act. This would be especially onerous burden for smaller, community-based nonprofits. Notably, the bill does not extend the same PIA coverage to private businesses, associations, religious entities, or other organizations that might receive grant support from the State.

CBF urges the Committee's UNFAVORABLE report on HB 15.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.