



Maryland
Hospital Association

House Bill 15- Public Information Act - Public Records - Nonprofit Organizations

Position: *Oppose*

February 10, 2026

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in opposition of House Bill 15.

As written, this legislation would negatively impact Maryland hospitals. All the private hospitals in the state are nonprofit organizations, and many receive state grant funding in excess of \$50,000 annually through various programs such as the Private Hospital Grant Program.

HB 15 modifies the definition of a public record under the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA) to include these private nonprofit hospitals. Therefore, these hospitals would be subject to public information requests. Complying with a PIA request is time and resource intensive. The bill language does not limit the PIA request process to records only associated with the state grant funding received. Most concerning, this bill would require private hospitals to be subject to providing information like employee salaries, addresses, etc. —a significant concern for privately owned businesses and the privacy of their employees.

Additionally, the state already has processes in place to audit the use of these state funds. For the Private Hospital Grant Program, hospitals must provide extensive documentation to the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Comptroller's Office before funding is released. DGS reviews every contract to ensure only allowable expenditures are included. The Comptroller's Office cannot release funds until a contract eligibility letter is received from DGS. Additionally, DGS conducts site visits once a project is complete to ensure the grant funding was used for the original intended purpose.

HB 15 does not provide any additional protection to ensure state grant funds are utilized for their intended purpose. Instead, as written, this bill adds unnecessary, labor intensive, and costly requirements on private nonprofit hospitals without gaining improved transparency for the use of state funds.

For these reasons, we request an unfavorable report on HB 15.

For more information, please contact:

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