



Maryland Association of Community Services

Testimony on House Bill 15
Public Information Act – Public Records – Nonprofit Organizations
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
February 10, 2026
Position: Unfavorable

Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Association of Community Services (MACS) represents nonprofit provider organizations that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Maryland. We respectfully oppose House Bill 15.

HB 15 would expand the Maryland Public Information Act to treat private nonprofit organizations receiving \$50,000 or more in annual state funding as public bodies subject to public records requests. While transparency in the use of public funds is important, this bill extends far beyond ensuring accountability for contracted services.

Nonprofits already operate under significant public scrutiny. State contracts require detailed reporting, documentation, audits, and performance monitoring tied directly to the use of public funds. In addition, nonprofit organizations file IRS Form 990 returns that publicly disclose financial information, governance structures, executive compensation, and potential conflicts of interest.

The Public Information Act was designed to apply to governmental entities. Applying it to private charitable organizations raises substantial concerns, including whether internal board minutes, donor information, and records unrelated to state-funded services would become subject to disclosure. For organizations that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, confidentiality and privacy are essential. The bill's language also creates uncertainty about what constitutes funding received "annually" and how long obligations would continue.

Expanding the Public Information Act in this manner would impose new administrative and legal burdens on nonprofits, deter smaller community-based organizations from contracting with the State, and ultimately risk reducing service capacity.

For these reasons, MACS respectfully urges an unfavorable report on House Bill 15.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Laura Howell

