



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: Health & Government Operations Committee
From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association
Date: February 18, 2020
Re: **HB 421 – Support**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of media organizations, from large metro dailies such as the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to publications such as The Daily Record and online only outlets such as Maryland Matters and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association supports HB 421, which would require that the Maryland Technology Development Corporation, Maryland Stadium Authority, State Board of Elections, Emergency Number Systems Board in DPSCS, Public Service Commission, and Maryland Transportation Authority post on their website agendas at least 48 hours in advance, barring unforeseen circumstances, meeting minutes promptly and livestream the portions of their meetings that are in open session.

These are commonsense, achievable actions that these public bodies can take to provide greater transparency and access to the public. The government bodies affected in this bill wield tremendous influence over the lives of Marylanders and often operate without much public input.

Transparency is important to democracy's function. Citizens should have access to the deliberations and meetings of public bodies. This bill allows citizens to more fully engage with the process and provides convenience and accessibility for reporters, who may wish to cover the meetings but are unable to physically go to the meeting.

The Press Association encourages a favorable report on HB 421.



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central to a strong and open society.**

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