



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

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To: Health & Government Operations Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: January 28, 2021

Re: **HB 79 - OPPOSE**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of newspaper publications, from large metro dailies like the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to online-only publications such as MarylandReporter.com and Baltimore Brew to hometown newspapers such as The Star Democrat and the Dorchester Banner.

The Press Association is opposed to House Bill 79, which seeks to change the definition of “newspaper of general circulation” to include online-only publications. This is an extraordinarily broad solution to a problem that does not exist.

The Dorchester County government has two stable and consistent publications in which to place its public notices: The Dorchester Banner and the Star Democrat. The Dorchester Banner is a weekly publication in print and the Star Democrat publishes four days each week. Every jurisdiction in Maryland has a print publication. We believe there is no need to change a definition that is used throughout the entire Maryland Code and this change may have consequences that reach far beyond this potential problem.

If public notices are placed in online publications alone, we have concerns about how those publications may be archived and proof of distribution and publication.

We recommend an unfavorable report.



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