



**Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association**

P.O. Box 26214 | Baltimore, MD 21210

443-768-3281 | [rsnyder@mddcpres.com](mailto:rsnyder@mddcpres.com)

[www.mddcpres.com](http://www.mddcpres.com)

To: Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: March 24, 2022

Re: **HB 246 - SUPPORT**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of newspaper publications, from large metro dailies such as the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as The Frederick News Post and Hagerstown Herald-Mail to publications such as The Daily Record, Baltimore Jewish Times, and online-only publications such as Baltimore Fishbowl, MarylandReporter.com and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association is pleased to support House Bill 246, which lengthens the amount of time public bodies must keep a notice of a meeting and the statement of meeting closure from one to three years, and, if the public body does not post these items online, requires public bodies to provide, on request, an electronic copy of the written statement or of meeting minutes, to a requestor within 2 business days of receiving the request.

Lengthening the records retention requirement from one to three years is not onerous and provides the public a longer window to look back. Ideally, public bodies will post statements of closure and meeting minutes on their websites, but if that is not feasible, we believe members of the public should be able to receive these documents in a timely manner.

We urge a favorable report.



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