

MARC KORMAN
Legislative District 16
Montgomery County

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Chair, Transportation and the
Environment

Oversight Committee on Personnel



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 210
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3649 · 301-858-3649
800-492-7122 Ext. 3649
Marc.Korman@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Maryland State Agency Transparency Act of 2022 (HB 375)
Testimony of Delegate Marc Korman—Favorable with Amendments

Thank you Madam Chair, Madam Vice President, and the members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. I come before you today to discuss the Maryland State Agency Transparency Act of 2022 (HB 375). The legislation builds on legislation of the same name from 2020 which successfully laid the foundation for the transparency standards applied to a few of Maryland's governing boards. The 2022 legislation will extend those standards to several of Maryland's quasi-government agencies. The transparency standards outlined in the bill are in accordance with the recommendations of the Governor's bipartisan State Transparency and Accountability Reform (STAR) Commission.

The requirements include:

- Live video streaming of meetings.
- Posting meeting materials 48 hours in advance.
- Posting meeting minutes within two days of their approval at a meeting.

Many of the agencies listed in the bill already comply with elements of the legislation, particularly as it relates to web streaming during the age of COVID. However, it is important to implement a standardized approach across quasi-governmental agencies that will ensure that agencies will remain transparent even after COVID. Given the fact that these agencies make decisions that impact the lives of Marylanders, it is equally important to continue to expand on transparency measures to provide Marylanders constant and stable access to the information they deserve. Additionally, we are submitting an amendment to apply the on-site visit exemption that currently applies to the Maryland Stadium Authority, to all the agencies under the bill.

The Maryland State Agency Transparency Act of 2022 will keep Maryland moving in the right direction in the field of government transparency. I urge a favorable report.

The following list of agencies are required by HB 375 to implement transparency standards:

- **Bainbridge Development Corporation (BDC):** Responsible for overseeing the conversion of the former U.S. Bainbridge Naval Training Center into re-use opportunities to maximize the economic contribution from the re-development.
- **Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority:** Oversees the preservation, development, and management of the Canal Place Preservation District, a designated heritage area in Cumberland around the western end of the C&O Canal.
- **Maryland 9-1-1 Board:** Coordinates installation and enhancement of county 9-1-1 emergency telephone number services systems.
- **Maryland Agricultural and Resource Based Industry Corporation (MARBIDCO):** Offers assistance to qualifying farms and rural businesses in securing affordable capital and credit for equipment, commercial facilities, and real estate purchases.
- **Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC):** Works to advance clean energy and energy efficiency products, services, and technologies as part of a specific economic development strategy.
- **Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO):** Provides assistance to Maryland's higher education entities through bond financing and ownership of student housing projects.
- **Maryland Environmental Service (MES):** Provides environmental and infrastructure services to public and private entities, but mostly to state and local governments.
- **Maryland Food Center Authority:** Responsible for owning, operating, improving, and maintaining real estate projects that provide economical, sanitary and modern facilities for food distribution in Maryland.
- **Maryland Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority:** Assists nonprofit hospitals and related health care organizations as well as private non-collegiate and higher educational institutions in the construction, financing and refinancing of certain projects approved by the Authority.
- **Maryland Industrial Development Financing Authority:** Promotes private sector investment in economic development projects through the insurance of financial obligations and the issuance of taxable and tax-exempt bonds. The Authority's goal is to provide greater access to capital for small- and medium-sized businesses and supports historically disadvantaged businesses and businesses in rural areas.
- **Maryland Stadium Authority:** Plans, finances, builds, and manages sports facilities, convention centers, entertainment venues, and other projects in Maryland.
- **Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA):** Responsible for financing, constructing, operating, and maintaining Maryland's eight toll facilities, including the Bay Bridge.
- **The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority:** Provides waste management planning and financing services for the private sector and for its member jurisdictions that include Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard and Montgomery counties.

- **Public Service Commission (PSC):** Regulates public utilities and transportation companies conducting business in Marylanders, sets utility rates and deals with rate adjustments.
- **State Board of Elections (SBE):** Responsible for the supervision of elections, voter registration and record keeping, and the administration of election laws.