



March 12, 2018

Dear County Elected Officials, Administrators, Attorneys, Public Information Officers, and Legislative Staffers:

SB 788 (*Public Information Act – Revisions*) is in danger of failing!

MACo needs your help: call your Senate EHE Committee members and urge them to SUPPORT this bill as-is.

Key points:

1. ENSURES TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Video in the public interest (where someone's rights may have been violated) is subject to disclosure
- Even an allegation of misconduct is enough to trigger disclosure

2. PROTECTS VICTIMS:

- Shields identity of victims of sexual crimes, domestic violence, and child abuse
- Shuts down "victim shaming"

3. RESIST "SHALL" TO "MAY" AMENDMENT

Making victim disclosure optional by changing "SHALL" to "MAY" (as opponents suggest) will "just protect victims sometimes." **NOT GOOD ENOUGH**

4. SUPPORT SB 788

FURTHER ACCOUNTABILITY WHILE PROTECTING VICTIM PRIVACY

Call today or use MACo's Legislative Action Network to send an email to your legislators. EHE votes on 3/13/18, so any contact you can make before the vote will help. For more information, contact Les Knapp, MACo Legal & Policy Counsel, 410.269.0043 or lnapp@mdcounties.org.