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 lknapp@mdcounties.org.