



## Senate Bill 632

### *State Government - State Elected Officials - Protection of Personal Information*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**  
**WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Government, Labor, and Elections  
Committee

Date: March 31, 2026

From: Sarah Sample

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 632 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill strengthens privacy protections for state officials while maintaining transparency for ethics and other mandatory disclosures for individuals in these roles. These changes, to extend new safety measures for state elected officials, have the potential to deter harmful actions that both endanger public servants and discourage public participation in leadership roles.

MACo has prioritized the well-being of public-facing civil servants for years, especially during and well after the COVID-19 pandemic. No frontline civil servant should be subject to a work environment made even more difficult due to threats and harassment. More recently, elected officials have found themselves under assault, with tragic events unfolding in Maryland and beyond. These incidents have resulted in grave harm and the loss of life for public officials carrying out the responsibilities required by law. When faced with these realities, it creates a great deal of fear and apprehension, particularly when information like home addresses are used to establish residency and subsequently posted online.

Provisions like those outlined in SB 632, which allow certain officials to shield some information, can deter life threatening assaults and indicate to elected officials that the law has their protection and safety accordingly ensured. While the bill places new responsibilities on local government custodians and communications teams, the continued absence of the protections afforded in SB 632 can have a devastating impact on public participation, with some elected roles already seeing a decline in interested candidates. **As such, counties are happy to support this bill but do, however, request an amendment to include local elected officials under these new privacy protections.**

Additionally, counties are comfortable taking on the new requirements for local teams as described in the bill, with one minor adjustment. The 72-hour window for removing information is too short for custodians to comply and avoid being subject to the penalties and actions outlined in the bill. Counties request this be adjusted to 10 business days to account for an appropriate window to identify and remove previously posted information.

This bill reaffirms the importance civil servants, who, in turn, protect both Marylanders' well-being and democratic principles. For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS SB 632 WITH AMENDMENTS** and urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report.