

WHEREAS, All persons should have equal access to public meetings and records; and

WHEREAS, There is at present no comprehensive law in the State prohibiting officials from shrouding in secrecy some deliberations, decisions, and records that affect the general public; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 361A be and it is hereby added to the Code of Public Local Laws of Cecil County (1961 Edition, being Article 8 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Cecil County," to follow immediately after Section 361 thereof, to be under the new subtitle "Public Information," and to read as follows:

*Public Information*

*361A.*

*(a) This act applies to any legislative or administrative body of Cecil County or any subdivision thereof, including any board, commission, authority, council, agency, committee, or other organization supported in whole or in part by public funds, or authorized to spend public funds, and also includes subcommittees or other subordinate groups of these bodies.*

*(b) Except as otherwise provided by law or specified in this act, all meetings of bodies subject to this act at which there is a collective decision by a majority of the members of the body, or an actual vote by a majority of the members of the body upon a motion, proposed resolution, order or ordinance shall be open to the public.*

*(c) All meetings required to be open under this act shall be held at specified times and places of which public notice shall be given as follows:*

*(1) Every body subject to this act shall give public notice of the schedule of regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar or fiscal year and shall state the regular dates, times, and places of such meetings.*

*(2) Public notice shall be given by posting a copy of the notice at the principal office of the body holding the meeting or, if no such office exists, at the building in which the meeting is to be held. The body shall supply copies of the notice of its regular meetings, and of the notice of any special or rescheduled meeting, to any local newspaper of general circulation or local radio or television station that has filed an annual request for a notice.*

*(3) If an emergency exists requiring immediate action, the foregoing notice requirements shall not apply, and an emergency meeting may be held. After any emergency meeting, the body shall give notice of all actions taken at the emergency meeting by posting and distributing notices in the same manner as for the scheduling of meetings.*

*(d) (C) The following are exempted from the provisions of this act:*

- (1) Grand and petit juries.*
- (2) Parole and pardon boards.*