

DAVID FRASER-HIDALGO
Legislative District 15
Montgomery County

Economic Matters Committee
Chair
Property and Casualty Insurance
Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Delegate C. T. Wilson
Chairman, House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building – Room 231
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mr. Chairman,

I am writing in favor of HB 208 - Consumer Protection - False Advertising - Digital Goods.

An amendment has been introduced to the committee to change lead sponsorship of this bill from my office to Delegate Andrew Pruski's office. My colleague Delegate Pruski will be presenting testimony in support of this legislation on my behalf.

HB 208 restricts the use of any terms, when purchasing digital goods, which a reasonable person would understand to confer an unrestricted ownership. The intent of the legislation is to ensure consumers understand digital ownership—of books, music, movies, and videogames—isn't really ownership. Sellers with digital goods will be required to either receive an affirmative acknowledgement from the purchaser at the time of transaction; or, put a warning in a manner that clearly calls attention to the language on relevant products.

This legislation is in the same posture as a recent law passed in California, Assembly Bill No. 2426, which is set to come into effect in 2025.¹

Thank you for your consideration, I urge a favorable report on HB 208.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Fraser-Hidalgo".

Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo

¹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB2426