



**TECHNET**  
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INNOVATION ECONOMY

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March 21, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary  
Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
130 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

*RE: SB 361 (Hester) - Election Law - Influence on a Voter's Voting Decision By Use of Fraud – Prohibition – Favorable with Amendments*

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I'm writing to share our comments on SB 361 related to synthetic media in elections.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.5 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg, Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, Tallahassee, and Washington, D.C.

Artificial intelligence has the potential to help us solve the greatest challenges of our time. It is being used to predict severe weather more accurately, protect critical infrastructure, defend against cyber threats, and accelerate the development of new medical treatments, including life-saving vaccines and ways to detect earlier signs of cancer.

However, recognizing and addressing the genuine risks associated with AI is crucial for its responsible advancement. That includes preventing candidates and their agents from using AI to release deliberately misleading campaign content. Creators of political content that include materially deceptive media should have an obligation to provide clear disclosures. We support statutory language to ensure that liability for dissemination of such media is limited to the person who creates and disseminates it, and not on intermediaries such as internet service providers, platforms, or tools that may be used in its creation or dissemination. Any liability

should be solely on the natural person who is the bad actor violating the law. We believe that any state law should align with federal exemptions contained in Section 230 of the federal code. As such, we're requesting the following language be added to SB 361:

- **"This section does not impose liability upon the following entities as a result of content provided by another person:**
  - **An interactive computer service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 230;**
  - **An internet service provider, cloud provider, or telecommunications network; or**
  - **A radio or television broadcaster, including a cable or satellite television operator, programmer, or producer."**

We are also requesting the following language be added to the list of exemptions:

- **This section shall not apply to the provider or developer of any technology used in the creation of synthetic media.**

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments on SB 361 and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

*Margaret Durkin*

Margaret Durkin  
TechNet Executive Director, Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic