

SB624: Public Safety – Short Term Rental Units – Fire Safety

Sponsor: Senator Brian Feldman

Position: FWA

Testimony by Jamie Gregory on behalf of Airbnb, Inc

Economic Impact:

Airbnb is an economic lifeline for many Hosts and an affordable travel option for guests.

From survey data:

- 42% of hosts said the money earned helped them stay in their home.
- 60% of MD hosts are Female and earned about \$13,000 in additional income.
- More than 20% are over 60 years old.
- Approximately 800,000 people visited MD by staying with an Airbnb Host.

In 2023, Airbnb contributed \$667 Million to Maryland's GDP and collected \$210 Million in total tax revenue.

Airbnb Public Safety:

Airbnb supports efforts to increase transparency and public safety. Airbnb takes fire safety very seriously.

- "To be a Host" checklist includes whether a smoke and CO2 detector is installed, if not one will be sent to the host for free.
- Since the start of the free distribution program, 294,000 combined smoke/CO2 detectors have been delivered to hosts.
- Airbnb is active with national fire code setting organizations and most recently was involved with the development of the International Fire Code latest version.

Requested Amendments:

Section 9-1104,

Page 4, Line 25:

- (1) NOTIFY [VIA ONLINE RESOURCES](#) ALL SHORT-TERM RENTAL HOSTS THAT USE THE BOOKING SERVICE OF THE FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

Explanation: The platforms communicate with their hosts through online communications.

Page 4, Line 27:

- (2) REQUIRE EACH SHORT-TERM RENTAL HOST THAT USES THE BOOKING SERVICE TO [KEEP AND MAKE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST A COPY OF THE ~~PROVIDE TO THE BOOKING SERVICE CONFIRMATION~~](#) DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED TO THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL HOST UNDER S9-1105 OF THIS SUBTITLE FOR EACH SHORT-TERM RENTAL UNIT OWNED BY THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL HOST.

Explanation: Greater accessibility to the information will be met by requiring the host to maintain documentation and make it available to anyone who asks, i.e.: guests, local authorities, platforms, etc. Requiring the platforms to maintain documentation will make the information further removed and delay accessibility. Additionally, the MD Online Data Privacy Act adopted during the 2024 GA Session protects Personal Private Information and inquiries to platforms require court orders, subpoenas or other official actions.

For any questions or more information regarding Airbnb's position, please contact Jamie Gregory at jgregory@lhstrategy.com or 202-841-3567.

