



MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION

January 19, 2026

Maryland Senate Committee on Education, Energy and the Environment
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 141 – Election Misinformation Law – Favorable With Amendments

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Motion Picture Association, Inc. (“MPA”),¹ I am writing concerning the SB 141 (the “Bill”), a bill concerning election misinformation and deepfakes. MPA appreciates the concerns that the Bill aims to address with regards to election integrity. I am writing concerning a proposed amendment that the MPA believes would eliminate unintended consequences for broadcasters and streaming services that may distribute communications provided by third parties.

The Bill revises Article 2-110 of the Maryland Election Law to provide that the State Board of Elections may file a civil action against a “person, campaign, political action committee, or other legal entity” if that entity “published election misinformation or election disinformation.” This provision does not contain any requirement that a civil action be taken against the creator of the election misinformation or disinformation, and thus could create liability for a broadcaster, streaming service, or website that hosts a communication or advertisement provided by others.

MPA requests an amendment requiring that a civil action under Article 2-110 may only be brought against an individual that creates or publishes the communication with knowledge that the communication constitutes misinformation or disinformation, and with the intent to mislead or deceive the electorate, and which provides express protections for broadcasters, streaming services, and other online services distributing a communication provided by third parties.

Notably, a separate part of the Bill concerning election deepfakes does contain protections for third parties. The new section 16-905 of the Election Law created by this Bill would expressly exempt broadcast entities and online services that distribute communications on behalf of others (as

¹ The MPA serves as the global voice and advocate of the motion picture, television, and streaming industries. It works in every corner of the globe to advance the creative industry, protect its members’ content across all screens, defend the creative and artistic freedoms of storytellers, and support innovative distribution models that expand viewing choices for audiences around the world. The MPA’s member studios are Netflix Studios, LLC; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Prime Amazon MGM Studios; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Universal City Studios LLC; Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; and Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc.

well as other exemptions for First Amendment-protected activity). Similar protections are appropriate in the revisions to Article 2-110.

MPA is available to discuss this Bill and potential language to address these concerns at your convenience. Please contact Renata Colbert (Renata_Colbert@motionpicturs.org) or Nick Manis (nmanis@maniscanning.com) with any questions about the Bill or MPA's proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

Renata Colbert
Director, State Government Affairs
MPA

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