

# HOUSE BILL 617

S1, P1  
HB 1141/23 – HGO

4lr2625  
CF 4lr2742

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By: **Delegates Munoz and Miller**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Information Technology – Prohibited Applications and Websites**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain applications from being used and certain websites  
4 from being accessed by certain employees, agents, or entities on any information  
5 technology owned or leased by a unit of State government; requiring the Department  
6 of Budget and Management, in collaboration with the Department of Information  
7 Technology, to prepare guidance for units of State government to remove from and  
8 prohibit the use of and access to certain applications and websites on information  
9 technology owned or leased by the unit; and generally relating to applications,  
10 websites, and State information technology.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – State Finance and Procurement

13 Section 3.5–801 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 8. Prohibited Applications and  
14 Websites”

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

20 **SUBTITLE 8. PROHIBITED APPLICATIONS AND WEBSITES.**

21 **3.5–801.**

22 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
23 **INDICATED.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(2) “BYTEDANCE LTD.” MEANS THE CHINESE INTERNET**  
2 **TECHNOLOGY COMPANY FOUNDED BY ZHANG YIMING AND LIANG RUBO IN 2012,**  
3 **AND ANY SUCCESSOR COMPANY OR ENTITY OWNED BY THE COMPANY.**

4           **(3) “INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**  
5 **3.5–301 OF THIS TITLE.**

6           **(4) “TENCENT HOLDINGS LTD.” MEANS THE CHINESE**  
7 **MULTINATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND ENTERTAINMENT CONGLOMERATE AND**  
8 **HOLDING COMPANY HEADQUARTERED IN SHENZHEN, CHINA, AND ANY SUCCESSOR**  
9 **COMPANY OR ENTITY OWNED BY THE COMPANY.**

10           **(5) “TIKTOK” MEANS THE VIDEO–SHARING APPLICATION**  
11 **DEVELOPED BY BYTEDANCE LTD. THAT HOSTS USER–SUBMITTED VIDEOS.**

12           **(6) “WECHAT” MEANS THE MULTIPURPOSE SOCIAL MEDIA,**  
13 **MESSAGING, AND PAYMENT APPLICATION DEVELOPED BY TENCENT HOLDINGS**  
14 **LTD.**

15           **(B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, AN**  
16 **EMPLOYEE OR AGENT OF A UNIT OR AN ENTITY CONTRACTING WITH A UNIT MAY NOT**  
17 **DOWNLOAD OR USE ANY APPLICATION, INCLUDING TIKTOK OR WECHAT, OR**  
18 **ACCESS ANY WEBSITE DEVELOPED BY BYTEDANCE LTD. OR TENCENT HOLDINGS**  
19 **LTD.:**

20           **(1) ON ANY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OWNED OR LEASED BY THE**  
21 **UNIT; OR**

22           **(2) WHILE CONNECTED TO ANY WIRED OR WIRELESS INTERNET**  
23 **NETWORK OWNED, OPERATED, OR MAINTAINED BY THE STATE.**

24           **(C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY WHERE THE USE OF THE APPLICATION**  
25 **OR ACCESS TO THE WEBSITE IS NECESSARY FOR:**

26           **(1) LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES;**

27           **(2) PROTECTING NATIONAL SECURITY; OR**

28           **(3) RESEARCH ON SECURITY PRACTICES.**

29           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 31,  
30 2024, the Department of Budget and Management, in collaboration with the Department  
31 of Information Technology, shall publish guidelines to assist units of State government in:

1           (1) removing and preventing access to applications and websites prohibited  
2 under § 3.5–801 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, as enacted by Section 1 of  
3 this Act, from information technology owned and leased by the unit;

4           (2) maintaining an ongoing prohibition on prohibited applications and  
5 websites being installed, maintained, or accessed on any information technology owned and  
6 leased by the unit; and

7           (3) permitting the installation, maintenance, and access to prohibited  
8 applications and websites where it is necessary for:

9                   (i) law enforcement activities;

10                   (ii) protecting national security; and

11                   (iii) research on security practices.

12           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 October 1, 2024.