

SENATE BILL 834

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4lr1776

By: **Senator Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Consumer Protection – Scam Awareness Pilot Program – Establishment**
3 **(Don’t Scam Maryland Act of 2024)**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Scam Awareness Pilot Program in the Division of
5 Consumer Protection of the Office of the Attorney General to identify common
6 scamming methods used against individuals in the State and to develop and
7 disseminate certain consumer safety messages; requiring the Division to engage
8 certain stakeholders to provide input on the Pilot Program; establishing that certain
9 funds may be used only in a certain manner; and generally relating to the
10 establishment of the Scam Awareness Pilot Program.

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That:

13 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

14 (2) “Division” means the Division of Consumer Protection of the Office of
15 the Attorney General.

16 (3) “Pilot Program” means the Scam Awareness Pilot Program.

17 (b) There is a Scam Awareness Pilot Program in the Division.

18 (c) The purpose of the Pilot Program is to:

19 (1) identify the most common types of e-mail, SMS, and telephone
20 scamming methods used against individuals in the State;

21 (2) develop consumer safety messages that will effectively help individuals
22 in the State identify common scams and mitigate the risks posed by common scams; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) disseminate consumer safety messages developed under item (2) of this
2 subsection using relevant channels of communication.

3 (d) The Division shall identify and engage relevant stakeholders to provide input
4 on the Pilot Program, including representatives of government, academia, the nonprofit
5 sector, and business and philanthropic organizations.

6 (e) The Division shall develop and administer the Pilot Program.

7 (f) Any funds appropriated in support of the Pilot Program may not be used for
8 purposes other than distributing the consumer safety messages developed under this
9 section.

10 (g) On or before September 30, 2026, the Division, in consultation with
11 stakeholders, shall submit a report on the Pilot Program to the Governor and, in accordance
12 with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 9 months and, at the
15 end of June 30, 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
16 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.