

# HOUSE BILL 304

P3

6lr1321

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By: **Delegate Grammer**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

### 2 **Public Information Act – Data Manipulation**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that a new public record is not created if, in responding to  
4 a certain request under the Public Information Act, a custodian conducts certain  
5 data manipulation; and generally relating to data manipulation and the Public  
6 Information Act.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 4–205(c)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### 14 **Article – General Provisions**

15 4–205.

16 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the custodian of  
17 a public record shall provide an applicant with a copy of the public record in a searchable  
18 and analyzable electronic format if:

19 (i) the public record is in a searchable and analyzable electronic  
20 format;

21 (ii) the applicant requests a copy of the public record in a searchable  
22 and analyzable electronic format; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(iii) the custodian is able to provide a copy of the public record, in whole or in part, in a searchable and analyzable electronic format that does not disclose:

15 (i) using a software program or function; or

16 (ii) converting the electronic document into a different searchable  
17 and analyzable format.

18 (4) This subsection may not be construed to:

19 (i) require the custodian to reconstruct a public record in an  
20 electronic format if the custodian no longer has the public record available in an electronic  
21 format;

22 (ii) allow a custodian to make a public record available only in an  
23 electronic format;

24 (iii) require a custodian to create, compile, or program a new public  
25 record; or

26 (iv) require a custodian to release an electronic record in a format  
27 that would jeopardize or compromise the security or integrity of the original record or of  
28 any proprietary software in which the record is maintained.

32 (II) SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES IF A  
33 REQUEST REQUIRES DATA COMPIRATION, DATA EXTRACTION, DATA QUERIYING,  
34 STATISTICAL AGGREGATION, OR ANY OTHER DATA MANIPULATION THAT THE

1 RECORDS DATABASE PROGRAM IS CAPABLE OF PERFORMING TO PRODUCE THE  
2 RECORD.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 October 1, 2026.