

# SENATE BILL 564

P1, I3

6lr2788

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By: ~~Senators Gile and Love~~, Love, Beidle, Hester, and Lam

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Office of the Attorney General – Data Protection**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Division of Data Protection within the Office of the  
4 Attorney General; authorizing the Division to enforce certain provisions of law;  
5 establishing the Maryland Data Privacy Implementation and Innovation  
6 Workgroup; and generally relating to data protection.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – State Government

9 Section 6–1001 through 6–1003 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10. Division  
10 of Data Protection”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – State Government**

16 **SUBTITLE 10. DIVISION OF DATA PROTECTION.**

17 **6–1001.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
2 INDICATED.

3 (B) "DIVISION" MEANS THE DIVISION OF DATA PROTECTION.

4 (C) "VIOLATION" MEANS A VIOLATION OF:

5 ~~(1) SECTION 13-310.1 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE;~~

6 ~~(2)~~ (1) TITLE 14, SUBTITLE 47 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW  
7 ARTICLE; OR

8 ~~(3)~~ (2) TITLE 14, SUBTITLE 48 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW  
9 ARTICLE.

10 6-1002.

11 THERE IS A DIVISION OF DATA PROTECTION IN THE OFFICE.

12 6-1003.

13 (A) THE FUNCTION OF THE DIVISION IS TO INVESTIGATE AND BRING CIVIL  
14 ACTIONS RELATED TO VIOLATIONS.

15 (B) THE DIVISION SHALL INCLUDE:

16 (1) A FULL-TIME CHIEF COUNSEL OF DATA PROTECTION; AND

17 (2) STAFF, INCLUDING ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL,  
18 INVESTIGATORS, AND ADMINISTRATORS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

20 (a) There is a Maryland Data Privacy Implementation and Innovation  
21 Workgroup.

22 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

23 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
24 the Senate;

25 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
26 House;

1 (3) the Attorney General, or a designee from the Attorney General who  
2 represents the Division of Data Protection;

3 (4) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's designee;

4 (5) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;

5 (6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

6 (i) one consumer privacy advocate from a nonprofit or academic  
7 institution;

8 (ii) one civil rights or civil liberties advocate with privacy expertise;

9 (iii) one representative of a Maryland-based small business;

10 (iv) one representative of the digital advertising industry; and

11 (v) one representative of industry with experience in data  
12 governance, cybersecurity, or compliance; and

13 (7) five members, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the  
14 Speaker of the House, representing a variety of stakeholder perspectives, including  
15 consumer advocates, technical experts, and regulated industry sectors.

16 (c) The members of the Workgroup shall elect a chair from among the members  
17 of the Workgroup.

18 (d) The Office of the Attorney General shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

19 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

20 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

21 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
22 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

23 (f) The Workgroup shall:

24 (1) study Maryland's consumer data privacy framework and evaluate  
25 implementation issues, focused on the following areas:

26 (i) data minimization;

27 (ii) compliance challenges faced by businesses;

28 (iii) privacy law updates in other states;

1 (iv) enforcement capacity and funding, including staffing and  
2 operational needs; and

3 (v) artificial intelligence and privacy, including how artificial  
4 intelligence systems build on personal data and how privacy protections should apply on  
5 emerging contexts; and

6 (2) make recommendations for legislative or policy changes to make  
7 technical clarifications or improvements while maintaining strong consumer protections.

8 (g) On or before January 1, 2027, the Workgroup shall report its findings and  
9 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
10 Government Article, the General Assembly.

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
12 1, 2026. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of  
13 June 30, 2027, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General  
14 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.