

SENATE BILL 564

P1, I3

6lr2788

By: **Senators Gile and Love**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

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.**

18 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
19 INDICATED.

20 (B) “DIVISION” MEANS THE DIVISION OF DATA PROTECTION.

21 (C) “VIOLATION” MEANS A VIOLATION OF:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(1) SECTION 13–310.1 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE;

(2) TITLE 14, SUBTITLE 47 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE; OR

(3) TITLE 14, SUBTITLE 48 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE.

6–1002.

THERE IS A DIVISION OF DATA PROTECTION IN THE OFFICE.

6–1003.

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

(B) THE DIVISION SHALL INCLUDE:

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

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

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

(b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (i) one consumer privacy advocate from a nonprofit or academic
2 institution;

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

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

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

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

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

11 (c) The members of the Workgroup shall elect a chair from among the members
12 of the Workgroup.

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

14 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

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

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

18 (f) The Workgroup shall:

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

21 (i) data minimization;

22 (ii) compliance challenges faced by businesses;

23 (iii) privacy law updates in other states;

24 (iv) enforcement capacity and funding, including staffing and
25 operational needs; and

26 (v) artificial intelligence and privacy, including how artificial
27 intelligence systems build on personal data and how privacy protections should apply on
28 emerging contexts; and

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

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

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
7 1, 2026. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of
8 June 30, 2027, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General
9 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.