



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Delegate Kathleen M. Dumais, Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

RE: HB1065 Public Service Companies and Contractors - Customer Protection
Personal Information

The MLLC supports HB1065 Public Service Companies and Contractors - Customer Protection - Personal Information.

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation which improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a voice in the development of public policy affecting the Latino community and the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1065.

In this era of the increasing use of digital technology and the development of data rights, people's privacy is a top concern. In recent years, it has become increasingly common for utility companies to sell their customers' personal information to data brokers, who in turn sell that information to a range of public and private entities. Throughout the country, this data is being used maliciously. Utility companies are sharing their clients' personal data with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who target all undocumented residents. This is unsettling for our undocumented community members because these scheme deals can lead to detention, or possibly deportation for so many.

Moreover, regardless of immigration status, people are entitled to expect their personal information to be kept private within utility companies. By prohibiting utility companies from selling the personal information they collect, users can trust that their information will not be sold to any third party. Maryland has the responsibility to protect its residents' data and privacy.

HB1065 prohibits a utility company from sharing, disclosing, or selling customers' personal information to a third party. The bill also limits the collection of personal information to the least amount necessary for the provision of services and effective operation and administration. This piece of legislation establishes the much-needed privacy protections for Marylanders.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB1065.