

LEGISLATIVE POSITION
Letter of Information
House Bill 901
Consumer Protection – Online Products and Services – Children's Data
House Economic Matters Committee
Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 6,400 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth and recovery for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

House Bill 901 creates a new framework for safeguarding the online privacy of children. As Maryland considers legislation addressing the important issue of ensuring a safe environment for children online, we encourage the committee to consider the suit currently filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California which has been brought against California's new California Age-Appropriate Design Code Act, scheduled to go into effect in 2024. The trade association filing suit asked for preliminary injunctive relief on December 14, 2022. This and other pleadings are attached.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce is recognizing the importance of the current suit as HB 901 is patterned after the recently passed California law being challenged.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce appreciates your consideration of these comments on HB 901.