

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate BILL 698 – THE ONLINE AND BIOMETRIC DATA PRIVACY ACT (Oppose Unless Amended)

Dear Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing on behalf of LexisNexis Risk Solutions (“LexisNexis”), a leading provider of credential verification and identification services for government agencies, Fortune 1000 businesses, and the property and casualty industry, to express concerns with Senate Bill 698, as introduced. While LexisNexis appreciates and supports Maryland’s efforts to provide practical and effective consumer protections for personal information and data, we join with industry in seeking clarifications in the proposed law to ensure the inclusion of the most up to date definitions and provisions and preserve our ability to provide quality services to our customers, particularly in the area of supporting fraud detection and identity theft.

Specifically, LexisNexis respectfully requests that the Committee consider amending the proposed legislation to clarify provisions relating to (1) stronger exemptions for entities currently regulated by federal law, (2) stronger exemptions for fraud prevention and detection, (3) definitions of consumer and publicly available information, (4) penalties and enforcement, and (5) an outdated biometric data framework. We stand willing to work with the Sponsor and the Committee to develop language that achieves the intended privacy protections for consumers, while allowing industry participants to effectively comply and continue to provide valuable services.

LexisNexis takes this opportunity to thank Senator Augustine for her hard work in this space and we remain committed to further collaboration in the development and implementation of best practices for data privacy, based on our expertise and experience. Thank you for your consideration of LexisNexis’ feedback on the proposed legislation.

Please let us know if we can answer any questions or provide any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

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