

**HB567: Maryland Online Data Privacy Act of 2024
Economic Matters Committee – February 13, 2024**

Sponsors: Delegates Love, Valderrama, Boafu, Charkoudian, Feldmark, Fraser-Hidalgo, Hill, Kaiser, Kaufman, Lehman, Palakovich-Carr, Pena-Melnyk, Shetty, Solomon, Stewart, Taveras, Watson, and Ziegler

Position: FAVORABLE with AMENDMENT

Testimony on behalf of Airbnb, Inc.

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

I am here on behalf of Airbnb, which was founded in 2008 in San Francisco, CA and now operates worldwide. Specifically in Maryland, in 2022 approximately 800,000 visitors stayed with an Airbnb Host. This totaled over 240,000 separate visits of about 3 persons per group with most guests staying 4-5 nights. However, this still only amounted to seven tenths of 1% of homes in MD. The typical MD host self-reports as being 60% female and earning about \$13,000 in additional income from sharing their home. Over 20% of hosts in MD are over 60 years old.

Background:

Airbnb takes its responsibility seriously to protect the personal identifying data of its hosts and consumers. Requirements are inconsistent on how and when information can and should be released. A firm consistent standard will both provide guidance and protect consumer information. Additionally, it is imperative that when personal identifying data is requested by a government entity that it is presented as a legitimate, compelling request.

Recommended Amendments:

On Page 31, line 2 a new (A):

A local governing body shall not require a controller or processor to disclose personal data of consumers, unless pursuant to a subpoena or court order,

Existing (A) to become (B) along with subsequent paragraph identifications.

Under (2) on current lines 6-8:

Comply with a civil OR criminal, [or regulatory inquiry, investigation,] subpoena, or summons by a federal, state, local, or other JUDICIAL BODY [governmental authority];

Airbnb respectfully asks for your consideration of these proposed changes. Please let us know if there are questions or additional information that can be provided.