



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION

Letter of Information

House Bill 603

Consumer Protection - Online Products and Services - Data of Children (Maryland Kids Code)

House Economic Matters Committee

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

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 6,800 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 603 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 which was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California which was brought against California's Age-Appropriate Design Code Act, initially scheduled to go into effect in 2024. In September 2023, a judge blocked California from enforcing the new law, saying the law's commercial speech restrictions violate the first amendment. Since that time, California's Attorney General has attempted to overturn the injunction, that process is now underway in the courts. Deadlines for briefs are scheduled through mid-March.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce is recognizing the importance of this current suit as HB 603 is patterned after the recently passed California law violating the first amendment. We appreciate your consideration of these comments on HB 603.

MDCHAMBER.ORG

60 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis 21401 | 410-269-0642