

SB541: Maryland Online Data Privacy Act of 2024

Finance Committee – February 14, 2024

Sponsors: Senators Gile, Hester, Augustine, Feldman, Beidle, and Ellis

Position: FAVORABLE with AMENDMENT

Testimony on behalf of Airbnb, Inc. by Jamie Gregory, Calfee Strategic Solutions

Chairman Beidle, Vice Chairman Klausmeier, and members of the Finance 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 users. The proposed amendments are consistent with federal guardrails around how such sensitive information can and should be disclosed. Codifying this standard in the Maryland Code will both provide clear guidance to local governments and help safeguard user information.

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.