



**SB 834 - Consumer Protection - Scam Awareness Pilot Program - Establishment  
(Don't Scam Maryland Act of 2024)**

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Date:** March 6, 2024

**Position:** Favorable

The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) **SUPPORTS** SB 834. This legislation establishes the Scam Awareness Pilot Program within the Division of Consumer Protection of the Office of the Attorney General. The Division is responsible for engaging stakeholders to identify common types of scams and develop messaging for Marylanders that can assist them in identifying scams.

According to the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Sentinel Network [2023 Data Book](#), Maryland saw the 5<sup>th</sup> highest amount of fraud per 100,000 residents in the United States. 84,353 reports of fraud were filed with the Commission, resulting in over \$164 million in total fraud losses.

Banks that operate in Maryland continually distribute information on prevalent scams to not only their customers, but the communities they serve as well. Tools such as the American Bankers Association's [Banks Never Ask That Campaign](#) provide consumers with up-to-date resources on scams and how to properly report them to their financial institutions and law enforcement.

The Maryland Bankers Association is an active participant in several organizations that aim to combat fraud, such as Project SAFE, and looks forward to being a stakeholder as the Division of Consumer Protection fulfills the requirements of the legislation.

Accordingly, the MBA urges issuance of a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 834.

*The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) represents FDIC-insured community, regional, and national banks, employing more than 26,000 Marylanders and holding more than \$209 billion in deposits in over 1,200 branches across our State. The Maryland banking industry serves customers across the State and provides an array of financial services including residential mortgage lending, business banking, estates and trust services, consumer banking, and more.*