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Economic Matters Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Testimony in Support of HB208
Testimony by Delegate Andrew Pruski
March 19, 2025 – Senate Finance Committee

What the Bill Does:

HB208 prohibits a person from advertising or offering the sale of a digital good without disclosing in certain terminology or alongside an option for a time-limited rental unless certain acknowledgments are received from the purchaser and certain statements are provided by the seller. This bill also establishes that a person is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to certain penalties for a violation of this Act and generally relating to the advertising and offering of digital goods for sale.

Why the Bill is Important:

In numerous instances consumers are led to believe that when they purchase a digital good, such as video games, eBooks, and music, they now own the good the same way they would own a hardcopy, which is not the case. The individual who purchased the digital good can lose access if the seller loses their license for the item, thus taking it away from the purchaser. This bill would require the seller of the digital good to disclose that the consumer is purchasing a license to use the digital good, not ownership of the digital good under the Consumer Protection Act. HB208 is based on a California Law passed in 2024 due to Ubisoft and Sony removing digital content that consumers had purchased.

On behalf of Maryland's consumers, I urge a favorable report on HB208.