



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1431 - MARYLAND DATA PRIVACY ACT

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

As the Trump administration prepares to double down on aggressive immigration enforcement, Maryland must act decisively to protect its residents' privacy. Without additional protections, state-held personal data could inadvertently become available to ICE, thus, breaking public trust, and placing our community at risk.

The 2021 Driver Privacy Act was a vital step, blocking ICE from warrantless access to MVA data. But gaps remain. Other state agencies still hold sensitive information that ICE could exploit. This bill strengthens Maryland's protections, ensuring that no state agency data can be weaponized against immigrant communities by:

- **Prohibiting Warrantless ICE Access to State Data** - Stops ICE from accessing state databases, records, or information without a valid warrant. This ensures that state data is not misused.
- **Mandating Transparency** - Requires state agencies to document all ICE access requests and report to the General Assembly and Attorney General. This creates transparency and ensures compliance with the law.

Limiting ICE Access to this data is critical:

- **Protects Marylanders' Privacy** - Ensures that Marylanders' sensitive data is shielded from unwarranted federal surveillance and misuse.
- **Maintains Trust in Government and State Agencies** - Trust in government is eroded by aggressive federal enforcement. This bill reassures Marylanders that state agencies prioritize their safety and privacy.

Maryland has an opportunity to uphold the privacy and trust of its residents. This bill ensures that state agencies are a shield, not a conduit, for unwarranted federal overreach.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1431.