



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 11, 2025

Judiciary Committee
Chair Delegate Luke Clippinger
Vice Chair Delegate Sandy J. Bartlett
100 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 1248, a bill that builds on Maryland's commitment to protecting individuals from digital exploitation and privacy violations. This bill addresses the serious issue of revenge pornography and unauthorized intimate visual depictions, ensuring that victims have recourse and that platforms play a responsible role in mitigating harm.

This issue has been championed by numerous advocates, legal experts and digital rights organizations dedicated to ensuring that individuals are protected from the devastating consequences of non-consensual intimate image distribution. While Maryland has already taken steps to address revenge pornography, emerging threats such as deepfake technology and inconsistent platform policies necessitate further action. Today, we have the opportunity to strengthen our laws by implementing clear protections and accountability measures.

The unauthorized distribution of intimate images can have severe consequences, including reputational damage, emotional distress and even threats to personal safety. Currently, there is no uniform process ensuring the swift removal of such content across digital platforms. This bill establishes clear requirements for platforms and strengthens legal protections for victims, ensuring that Maryland takes a proactive approach to safeguarding digital privacy.

What This Bill Does:

- Requires platform accountability: Digital platforms with over 100,000 unique monthly U.S. users must implement a process for individuals to request the removal of non-consensual intimate visual depictions.

- Mandates timely action: Platforms must act within 48 hours to remove reported content and maintain data records for potential legal proceedings.
- Expands legal definitions: The bill includes computer-generated intimate depictions, such as deepfake images, ensuring modern technological threats are addressed.
- Strengthens penalties: Individuals found guilty of distributing intimate images without consent may face up to 2 years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both.

While some may argue that platforms already have content moderation policies, the reality is that enforcement is inconsistent, and victims are often left without timely recourse. This bill ensures a structured, evidence-based approach to protecting individuals from digital exploitation.

This is a matter of privacy, safety and responsibility. No individual should have to endure the trauma of having their intimate images shared without consent. HB1248 ensures that Maryland takes a firm stance against digital exploitation by implementing a structured, victim-focused approach to addressing revenge pornography and unauthorized intimate depictions.

I urge a favorable report on HB1248, and I thank you for your time and consideration.