



House Bill 1220

Position: Unfavorable

Committee: Economic Matters

Date: February 26, 2026

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (“Maryland Chamber”) is a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth and opportunity for all Marylanders.

As currently drafted, House Bill 1220 (“HB 1220”) includes an overly broad definition of “data broker” that would create significant unintended consequences for Maryland employers and the broader economy.

HB 1220’s definition of “Data Broker” is overly expansive and risks sweeping in companies that are not data brokers. As written, the measure could apply to a wide range of ordinary businesses that collect or share data as a routine part of providing products and services. This approach would effectively subject many Maryland businesses to new regulatory and fee requirements.

Further, HB 1220 introduces definitions and terminology that do not align with the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act. Differences in key terms—such as the treatment of biometric information and the definition of personal data—would create confusion and duplicative compliance burdens. Instead of creating clarity, the bill risks establishing overlapping and potentially conflicting legal frameworks.

Maryland’s business community supports responsible data practices, and Maryland has already enacted a comprehensive data privacy framework. Rather than layering on an additional registry with broad and unclear scope, Maryland should focus on ensuring consistency and effective implementation of existing law.

Data-driven services enhance public safety, reduce fraud, improve operational efficiency, and facilitate commerce. As drafted, HB 1220 would unnecessarily subject a broad array of businesses to annual registration and fee requirements. **For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 1220.**