



**HB711 Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System
Data Privacy Act
Position: Favorable**

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Kris Valderrama, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
Room 230, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
cc: Members, House Economic Matters

Chair Valderrama and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland Fund writes in strong support of HB711. Economic Action serves more than 2000 Marylanders a year through our fair housing, tenant advocacy, and Securing Older Adult Resources (SOAR) program. Many of the clients we serve are immigrants—both those who have been established in Maryland for a long time and newly arrived.

Data privacy has been a core consumer protection concern for Economic Action Maryland Fund. We have advocated for state strong protections via the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act (MODPA) of 2024, for kids' online privacy and safety, as well as the use of data and data brokers for debt collection and debt buyers.

HB711 is uphold's Maryland's commitment to privacy, fairness, and the protection of all its residents. Loopholes in the current law allow sensitive personal data collected by state agencies to be funneled to ICE through third-party data brokers and law enforcement data-sharing networks. This bill closes those loopholes and stops the flow of Marylanders' data into the hands of ICE and other federal agencies that use it to fuel deportations, family separation, and racial profiling

Specifically, this bill strengthens protections by closing driver data loopholes to prevent third-party entities from sharing driver information with ICE; updating the MPIA to ensure that records requests cannot be weaponized for immigration enforcement and to protect data currently treated as "public" but used to target immigrants; and strengthening MODPA by limiting what counts as "publicly available information," explicitly protecting geolocation data from phones and vehicles and prohibiting the use of non-sensitive data to infer sensitive personal information. These reforms are critical at this juncture to protect personal data, expand privacy, and restore trust between residents and state agencies.

For all these reasons, we support HB711 and urge a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White
Executive Director

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

2209 Maryland Ave · Baltimore, MD 21218 | www.econaction.org
Marceline White · Marceline@EconAction.org | Jennifer Bevan-Dangel · Jennifer@EconAction.org



Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

2209 Maryland Ave · Baltimore, MD 21218 | www.econaction.org
Marceline White · Marceline@EconAction.org | Jennifer Bevan-Dangel · Jennifer@EconAction.org