



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

FAVORABLE **HB711 - The Data Privacy Act**

Economic Matters Committee
February 24, 2026

The Maryland Legislative Jewish Caucus (MLJC), a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates, **strongly supports HB711 as a 2026 caucus priority**. The bill prohibits third-party data businesses from selling personal and sensitive data for the purposes of federal immigration enforcement.

Maryland has worked hard to preserve the fundamental rights of its residents and to protect their sensitive data. The Maryland General Assembly has passed three signature pieces of legislation:

- The Public Safety Section of 2021 Driver Privacy Protection Act
- The Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA)
- The Maryland Online Data Privacy Act (MODPA)

However, legal loopholes in these laws, combined with Federal overreach, have resulted in the free outflow of data to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency and others, via third-party data aggregators and brokers.

This bill will:

1. Address the Public Safety Section of the Driver Privacy Protection Act to strengthen current law by explicitly adding third parties, such as NLETS (International Justice and Public Safety Network) to the definition of covered entities.
2. Change MPIA to protect data that could otherwise be considered public information and ensure that MPIA officers take adequate steps to ensure MPIA's requests are not being used for immigration enforcement purposes.
3. Strengthen data privacy provisions in MODPA by limiting the "publicly available information" that falls outside its protections; by specifically protecting geolocation data from mobile devices and vehicles; by ending the law enforcement exemption of ICE; and by prohibiting the use of non-sensitive data to infer sensitive data.

This legislation, which aligns with MLJC's mission of supporting targeted populations and standing in solidarity with our neighbors, particularly immigrants. Given recent shootings involving ICE, as well as a significantly disturbing increase in ICE's use of violent tactics, many Marylanders are understandably living in fear. This bill would ensure that any sensitive data regarding any Marylander is safeguarded against federal government overreach.

HB 711 not only protects the sensitive data and privacy of all Marylanders, but also strengthens public trust in the government and in state agencies. No one should hesitate from getting the help they need because of fear of federal overreach. This is an important protection for basic privacy rights and emphasizes Maryland's commitment to protect our residents.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 711.