

HB711 The Data Privacy Act

Favorable

I urge the Committee to submit a favorable report on HB711, the Data Privacy Act. This bill will help protect our immigrant friends and neighbors in addition to all Marylanders.

All residents in Maryland deserve to be confident that their sensitive personal data is secure. By strengthening the MODPA to limit what counts as “publicly available information”, explicitly protecting geolocation data from phones and vehicles, ending the law enforcement exemption that ICE exploits. It also prohibits the use of non-sensitive data to infer sensitive personal information. If this information is needed let it be subject to court order and not to the whims of any person or government agency.

Trust in government is important. Mass surveillance does not stop with immigrants. When data is misused everyone’s privacy is at risk. Residents cannot trust state agencies if their private information is quietly shared publicly. Current federal government overreach has exposed this loophole. It is time for this loophole to be closed.

Please submit a favorable report on HB711, the Data Privacy Act.

Jacki Gilbert