



House Bill 1089

Position: Unfavorable
Committee: Economic Matters
Date: March 10, 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.

House Bill 1089 (“HB 1089”) would impose sweeping new regulatory burdens on a wide range of companies without delivering meaningful privacy benefits to Maryland residents. Specifically, HB 1089 defines “data brokers” using an overly broad and ambiguous definition that would capture numerous legitimate businesses that maintain direct relationships with customers and use data for routine operational purposes, such as fraud prevention, analytics, and service improvement.

HB 1089 would force affected companies to register with the state, pay annual fees, and publicly disclose detailed information about their data practices. This would create significant compliance costs—particularly for small and mid-sized businesses that lack dedicated legal and regulatory teams. For many companies, the administrative burden alone will discourage investment and expansion in Maryland.

Equally concerning, HB 1089 duplicates and conflicts with Maryland’s existing consumer privacy framework. The state has already adopted comprehensive privacy legislation that regulates how companies collect, use, and share personal information. Creating an additional registry and reporting system is unnecessary and risks producing a confusing patchwork of overlapping obligations that will be difficult for businesses to navigate.

HB 1089 also raises serious concerns about the public disclosure of sensitive business information. Forcing companies to publish detailed descriptions of their data sources, business relationships, and practices could expose proprietary strategies and place Maryland companies at a competitive disadvantage compared with firms operating in states that do not impose similar mandates.

At a time when Maryland should be encouraging economic growth, innovation, and job creation, HB 1089 seeks to impose expansive regulatory frameworks on businesses without sufficient clarity, coordination with existing laws, or consideration of the real-world impact on employers. **For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 1089.**