



Senate Bill 697

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: February 25, 2026

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

The Maryland Chamber appreciates the intent of Senate Bill 697 (SB 697). We respectfully request the definition of “social media platform” be amended to reflect the following language:

(5) “social media platform” means a website or mobile application that functions primarily to connect users in order to allow users to interact socially with each other and meets the following criteria:

- (I) Allows users to upload, create, share, and view content to share with other users;
- (II) enables users viewing content to react, comment, or share the content viewed by the user;
- (III) Allows users to construct a public or semipublic profile for purposes of signing into and using the service or application;
- (IV) Allows users to populate a public list of other users with whom an individual shares a social connection within the system.
- (V) A Social Media Platform: does not include:
 - (I) A service or application that provides email or direct messaging services
 - (II) A service or application that consists primarily of news, sports, entertainment, ecommerce, or content that is preselected by the provider, or for which any chat, comments, or interactive functionality is incidental to, directly related to, or dependent on the provision of such content.

The Maryland Chamber’s understanding is that this change create consistency across states by mirroring similar statutes adopted in California, New York, Connecticut, Virginia, Minnesota, and Ohio, and bills being considered in New Jersey and New Hampshire. **For this reason, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests a favorable with amendments report on SB 697.**