



**SB504 Data Privacy - Consumer Data, Public Records, and Message Switching System
Data Privacy Act
Position: Favorable**

February 26, 2026

The Honorable Pam Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
cc: Members, Senate Finance

Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland Fund writes in strong support of SB504. 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.

SB504 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 SB504 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