



TESTIMONY FOR SB0564

State Government - Office of the Attorney General - Data Protection

Bill Sponsor: Senator Gile

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0564 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Data protection has become a critical need for all Marylanders. Our data is hacked, sold, and very often used against us. It is not only bad actors and thieves who steal and manipulate our data, it is businesses who seek to profit from knowing our habits or our associates. Right now, the federal government is building databases with our information and we are fairly certain they do not intend to use that data to our advantage.

Everyday Marylanders would benefit from having investigators whose job it is to bring civil actions against persons or businesses who violate our privacy. This bill would establish the Division of Data Protection within the Office of the Attorney General and staff it with assistant Attorneys General, investigators, and administrators who can do the investigative and administrative work to ensure that Maryland's privacy laws are being upheld.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.