



SB582: Consumer Protection - Unsolicited Loans

Position: Favorable

February 19, 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 urges a favorable report on SB582, which would place guardrails around checks and other loans received, unsolicited, by consumers across Maryland.

We write in support of this bill on behalf of our clients, supporters, and all Marylanders, but our position is informed by personal experience. Our staff, like so many Marylanders, have received these unsolicited checks in the mail. Even as experienced consumer advocates we have been taken off guard, confused, and unsure about the nature of these unsolicited offers. We have found the marketing deceptive at worst and misleading at best.

These checks are a trap for people who are not savvy about this practice, do not understand they are loans with interest attached, and unwittingly commit themselves to a high interest loan believing it to be a regular check. In fact, the practice is so fraught that the Attorney General of the District of Columbia issued a warning to consumers about these checks.¹

Perhaps more concerning, these unsolicited checks expose individuals to identify theft and fraud. It is easy for someone to pull these offer letters out of a mailbox or out of someone's recycling. According to the FBI, mail-theft related check fraud is on the rise.² While their focus is on individuals stealing outgoing checks, it is just as easy for thieves to steal these unsolicited, incoming checks.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB582.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Deputy Director

¹ <https://oag.dc.gov/blog/strapped-cash-beware-high-cost-loans-disguised>

² <https://www.ic3.gov/PSA/2025/PSA250127>

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.