



Senate Bill 697

Date: April, 2026

Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections

Position: Favorable with Amendments

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, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

The Maryland Chamber appreciates the sponsor's intent regarding Senate Bill 697, and we respectfully submit the proposed amendments below to help clarify the bill, foster future compliance, and align Maryland with similar frameworks adopted by other states.

Amendment Option One

Beginning on page 2, line 19, make the following changes:

(5) "SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM" MEANS A WEBSITE OR MOBILE APPLICATION THAT **PRIMARILY CONNECTS USERS SOCIALLY 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 **PROVIDED THAT 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, SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED TO MEET THIS CRITERION BASIS ON THAT FUNCTION ALONE;**

(III) ALLOWS USERS TO CONSTRUCT A PUBLIC OR SEMIPUBLIC PROFILE FOR THE PURPOSES OF SIGNING INTO AND USING THE SERVICE OR APPLICATION; AND

(IV) ALLOWS USERS TO POPULATE A PUBLIC LIST OF OTHER USERS WITH WHOM AN INDIVIDUAL SHARES A SOCIAL CONNECTION WITHIN THE SYSTEM.

Amendment Option Two

Beginning on page 2, line 19, make the following changes:

(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 THE PURPOSES OF SIGNING INTO AND USING THE SERVICE OR APPLICATION; AND

(IV) ALLOWS USERS TO POPULATE A PUBLIC LIST OF OTHER USERS WITH WHOM AN INDIVIDUAL SHARES A SOCIAL CONNECTION WITHIN THE SYSTEM.

(6) SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM DOES NOT INCLUDE:

(I) A SERVICE OR APPLICATION THAT PROVIDES EMAIL OR DIRECT MESSAGING SERVICES; OR

(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.

Either amendment option would align Maryland with other states like California, New York, and Virginia that have adopted similar regulatory frameworks. **For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests adoption of one of the amendment options.**