



# MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION

February 2, 2026

Maryland House Committee on Government, Labor, and Elections  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re:** HB 145 – Election Misinformation Law – Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chari Wells and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Motion Picture Association, Inc. (“MPA”),<sup>1</sup> I am writing concerning the HB 145 Election Misinformation Law – Favorable with Amendments (the “Bill”), a bill concerning election misinformation and deepfakes. MPA appreciates the concerns that the Bill aims to address with regards to election integrity. I am writing concerning a proposed amendment that the MPA believes would eliminate unintended consequences for broadcasters and streaming services that may distribute communications provided by third parties.

The Bill revises Article 2-110 of the Maryland Election Law to provide that the State Board of Elections may file a civil action against a “person, campaign, political action committee, or other legal entity” if that entity “published election misinformation or election disinformation.” This provision does not contain any requirement that a civil action be taken against the creator of the election misinformation or disinformation, and thus could create liability for a broadcaster, streaming service, or website that hosts a communication or advertisement provided by others.

MPA requests an amendment requiring that a civil action under Article 2-110 may only be brought against an individual that creates or publishes the communication with knowledge that the communication constitutes misinformation or disinformation, with the intent to mislead or deceive the electorate, and which provides express protections for broadcasters, streaming services, and other online services distributing a communication provided by third parties.

Notably, a separate part of the Bill concerning election deepfakes does contain protections for third parties. The new section 16-905 of the Election Law created by this Bill would expressly

---

<sup>1</sup> The MPA serves as the global voice and advocate of the motion picture, television, and streaming industries. It works in every corner of the globe to advance the creative industry, protect its members’ content across all screens, defend the creative and artistic freedoms of storytellers, and support innovative distribution models that expand viewing choices for audiences around the world. The MPA’s member studios are Netflix Studios, LLC; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Prime Amazon MGM Studios; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Universal City Studios LLC; Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; and Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc.

exempt broadcast entities and online services that distribute communications on behalf of others (as well as other exemptions for First Amendment-protected activity). Similar protections are appropriate in the revisions to Article 2-110.

MPA is available to discuss this Bill and potential language to address these concerns at your convenience. Please contact Renata Colbert ([Renata\\_Colbert@motionpicturs.org](mailto:Renata_Colbert@motionpicturs.org)) or Nick Manis ([nmanis@maniscanning.com](mailto:nmanis@maniscanning.com)) with any questions about the Bill or MPA's proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

Renata Colbert  
Director, State Government Affairs  
MPA

\* \* \* \*