

IndivisibleHoCoMD



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

SB 141 - Election Law - Election Misinformation, Election Disinformation, and Deepfakes

POSITION: Favorable

by: Christine Lemyze, Defend Democracy Team Lead, Indivisible Howard County

Date: April 1, 2026

On behalf of our 1800+ Indivisible Howard County members, I am writing in support of SB 141. IndivisibleHoCoMD is an informal group of citizens in Howard County, MD, registered with the Indivisible Project's national network of local grassroots groups. We believe in fairness, tolerance, inclusion, and democracy.

The rise of digital misinformation, coordinated disinformation campaigns, and AI-generated deepfakes, very often from foreign entities, poses a serious and rapidly escalating threat to Maryland's democratic process. While the Maryland State Board of Elections has taken proactive steps to address misinformation, current law does not provide the authority or structure needed to respond effectively to these real threats.

SB 141 fills that gap by requiring the State Administrator of Elections to investigate credible reports of misinformation, disinformation, or deepfakes and to issue timely corrective information to the public. The bill also establishes clear

prohibitions on knowingly creating or distributing deepfakes that materially mislead voters and provides meaningful civil and criminal penalties to deter such conduct. Additionally, the use of a public reporting portal will help Marylanders identify and flag harmful content quickly.

SB 141 offers common-sense, urgently needed protections to ensure Maryland residents can trust that the information they receive about elections is accurate and reliable. Our democracy is on the line.

Indivisible Howard County, representing 1800+ citizens in Maryland, urges a favorable report on SB 141.