



House Bill 145

Date: February 4, 2026

Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (Maryland Chamber) is a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth and opportunity for all Marylanders.

House Bill 145 (HB 145) prohibits a person from knowingly or with reckless disregard using or disseminating a specified “deepfake” to produce materially false information relating to elections. The Maryland Chamber supports the intent of HB 145, but we respectfully request the committee consider the following amendments.

On page 4, line 5, the bill’s uses vague language related to a broadcaster’s “good faith effort” that could unintentionally subject broadcasters to broad liability. To establish protection against unintentional liability, the Maryland Chamber encourages the committee to include additional language in the exemption section on page 3, line 18:

(1) Alternative amendment that would protect against unintentional liability exposure:

- This section does not impose liability upon the following entities as a result of content provided by another person:
 - An interactive computer service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 230;
 - An internet service provider, cloud provider, or telecommunications network; or
 - A radio or television broadcaster, including a cable or satellite television.

Additionally, the Maryland Chamber respectfully request amending HB 145 to add cybersecurity and antifraud exemptions to clarify the sharing of deepfake content cybersecurity or antifraud purposes is not considered the dissemination of the content.

(1) Amendment to ensure sharing information for cybersecurity and antifraud efforts:

- This act shall not restrict the ability of a person to detect, prevent, respond to, or protect against security incidents, identity theft, fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activities or any illegal activity, preserve the integrity or security of systems or investigate, report, or prosecute those responsible for any such action.”