



HB 1471 – Consumer Protection – Identity Theft Debt

Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Date: March 11, 2026

Position: Favorable with Amendments

The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) **SUPPORTS HB 1471 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This legislation creates new legal protections for Maryland consumers who are victims of identity theft involving debt while imposing several new requirements on creditors. While MBA supports measures to combat identity theft and protect Maryland residents, HB 1471 establishes a state-level framework that conflicts with and exceeds federal law, creating operational burdens, legal uncertainty, and unintended consequences for credit availability.

HB 1471 as drafted sets out a process for Marylanders to dispute debt allegedly incurred through identity theft directly with creditors. However, under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (“FCRA”), Marylanders can already file notices with a credit reporting agency to dispute debts, which then get passed onto the respective creditor for investigation.

HB 1471 contains the following provisions that are problematic for creditors:

1. The definition of evidence in 14-2A-01(D) should be narrowed to only include evidence that is accompanied by a sworn statement, including police reports and FTC reports.
2. 14-21-02(A) should be altered to align with federal FCRA standards. The language should be altered to require a consumer to provide evidence to and the specified notice to a credit reporting agency to trigger applicable FCRA procedures (where the creditor would then investigate upon receipt of the dispute from the credit reporting agency and provide updates/responses through the established credit reporting agency process).
3. Strike 14-2A-02 (B), (C), (D), and (E) as the FCRA does not require such mandates. A statutory, automatic halt to all collections—even before verifying basic facts—creates opportunities for misuse and delays legitimate collections. In addition, investigation and notice requirements are already triggered by existing federal FCRA provisions.
4. Strike 14-2A-03, and 14-2A-04, 14-2A-05, 14-2A-06, and 14-2A-07, as punishments already exist for creditors not in compliance with the federal FCRA, which can consist of regulatory enforcement, private civil liability, and lawsuits alleging willful noncompliance.

Maryland consumers deserve strong protections against identity theft—and Maryland banks remain committed partners in that effort. However, HB 1471 introduces significant new obligations that exceed federal requirements and impose operational burdens that ultimately harm Maryland’s credit ecosystem. MBA believes addressing the issues above helps ensure that Maryland’s identity-theft protections are strong, balanced, and workable for all stakeholders. Accordingly, MBA urges issuance of a **FAVORABLE** report **WITH AMENDMENTS** on HB 1471.

The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) represents FDIC-insured community, regional, and national banks, employing thousands of Marylanders and holding \$194.8 billion in deposits in over 1,100 branches across our State. The Maryland banking industry serves customers across the State and provides an array of financial services including residential mortgage lending, business banking, estates and trust services, consumer banking, and more.