



HB1431
Maryland Data Privacy Act

As the Trump administration prepares to double down on aggressive immigration enforcement, Maryland must act decisively to protect its residents’ privacy. Without additional protections, state-held personal data could inadvertently become available to ICE, thus, breaking public trust, and placing our community at risk.

The 2021 Driver Privacy Act was a vital step, blocking ICE from warrantless access to MVA data. But gaps remain. Other state agencies still hold sensitive information that ICE could exploit. This bill strengthens Maryland’s protections, ensuring that no state agency data can be weaponized against immigrant communities by:

- **Prohibiting Warrantless ICE Access to State Data** - Stops ICE from accessing state databases, records, or information without a valid warrant. This ensures that state data is not misused.
- **Mandating Accountability and Transparency** - Requires state agencies to document all ICE access requests and report to the General Assembly and Attorney General. This creates transparency and ensures compliance with the law.

Limiting ICE Access to this data is critical:

- **Protects Marylanders’ Privacy** - Ensures that Marylanders’ sensitive data is shielded from unwarranted federal surveillance and misuse.
- **Maintains Trust in Government and State Agencies** - Trust in government has eroded under aggressive federal enforcement. This bill reassures Marylanders that state agencies prioritize their safety and privacy.

Maryland faces a critical choice: uphold the privacy and trust of its residents or risk complicity in aggressive federal enforcement. This bill ensures that state agencies are a shield, not a conduit, for unwarranted federal overreach. By enacting this legislation, Maryland can lead the nation in protecting the privacy, dignity, and safety of all residents.

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