

SB141 • Maryland

Election Law - Election Misinformation, Election Disinformation, and Deepfakes

Passed Both Chambers

Risk: High

Comprehensive

Last Action (May 12, 2026): Approved by the Governor - Chapter 444

Summary

The bill mandates actions against election misinformation, including deepfakes, and requires the State Administrator to take specific actions upon credible reports.

Business Impact

If you create or distribute media related to elections in Maryland, you must ensure it is not misleading or face legal penalties.

Key Provisions

- State Administrator must take specific actions upon credible reports of election misinformation.
- Administrator required to publicly communicate accurate information.
- Prohibits knowingly or recklessly creating or disseminating deepfakes that mislead voters.

Compliance Checklist

- Ensure all election-related media is accurate and not misleading. | Who: Individuals and organizations involved in election media. | Penalty: Legal penalties for non-compliance.
- Report any credible instances of election misinformation. | Who: All stakeholders in the electoral process. | Penalty: Potential legal consequences for failing to report.

Industries Affected

Elections

Technology

Media

Government

Topics

AI Deepfakes

AI in Political Advertising

Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Katie Hester	D	Sponsor
Benjamin Brooks	D	Sponsor
Brian Feldman	D	Sponsor
Kevin Harris	D	Sponsor
Cheryl Kagan	D	Sponsor
Mary Washington	D	Sponsor

Roll Call Votes

Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2026-04-13	Third Reading Passed	85	38	Passed
2026-04-13	Third Reading Passed	28	4	Passed
2026-04-10	Third Reading Passed	95	35	Passed
2026-02-12	Third Reading Passed	44	0	Passed

Amendments

- Favorable with Amendments 103824/1 Adopted — 2026-02-03 (Adopted)
- Floor Amendment 253621/1 (Senator Hester) Adopted — 2026-02-10 (Adopted)
- Favorable with Amendments 433522/1 Adopted — 2026-04-09 (Adopted)
- Conference Committee Report 173226/1 Adopted — 2026-04-13 (Adopted)

Related Bills

- HB145 (MD)
- SB 141 (MD)

Official Source

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/SB0141?ys=2026RS>

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