

HB198 • Maryland

Election Law - Online Campaign Material - Use of Deepfakes

Introduced

Risk: Medium

Narrow/Targeted

Last Action (Jan 21, 2020): Hearing 2/06 at 1:00 p.m.

Summary

The bill prohibits the use of deepfakes to influence voters within 90 days of an election, imposing penalties for violations.

Business Impact

If you publish campaign materials in Maryland, you must avoid using deepfakes within 90 days of an election or face misdemeanor charges and fines.

Key Provisions

- Prohibits the use of deepfakes to influence voter decisions within 90 days of an election.
- Violators may be charged with a misdemeanor.
- Exemptions exist for individuals who disclose specific information about the deepfake.

Compliance Checklist

- Avoid using deepfakes in campaign materials | Who: Campaign operators and candidates | Penalty: Misdemeanor charges and potential fines

Industries Affected

Technology

Digital Media

Political
Campaigning

Consumer
Protection

Government

Topics

Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Afzali		Cosponsor
Carey		Cosponsor
Jameson		Cosponsor
Luedtke		Primary
Wicomico County Delegation		Primary
Rose		Cosponsor
Wilson		Primary
Ebersole		Primary
Charles County Delegation		Primary
W. Miller		Cosponsor
Beidle		Cosponsor
Krebs		Cosponsor

Roll Call Votes

Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2019-04-08	No motion given	46	0	Passed
2019-03-18	On Third Reading	135	0	Passed

Official Source

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/HB0198?ys=2020RS>

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