

SB697 • Maryland

Election Law - Actions to Influence an Election - Social Media Platform Algorithms and Bots Purchased by Foreign Nationals

In Committee

Risk: Medium

Narrow/Targeted

Last Action (Mar 24, 2026): Hearing 4/01 at 1:00 p.m.

Summary

This bill addresses social media platforms altering algorithms to amplify political content and prohibits foreign nationals from using bots for campaign material.

Business Impact

If you operate a social media platform, you must disclose algorithm changes benefiting candidates by January 1, 2025, or face penalties.

Key Provisions

- Prohibits foreign nationals from using bots to publish, distribute, or disseminate campaign material.
- Includes a rebuttable presumption regarding independent expenditures related to algorithm changes that knowingly and purposefully benefit a candidate.

Compliance Checklist

- Monitor and disclose algorithm changes related to political content | Who: Social media platforms | Penalty: Potential penalties for non-compliance not specified
- Ensure no bots are used by foreign nationals to amplify campaign materials | Who: Social media platforms | Penalty: Potential penalties for non-compliance not specified

Industries Affected

Government

Social Media

Consumer Protection

Political Campaigns

Technology

Topics

AI in Political Advertising

AI in Social Media & Online Platforms

Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Feldman		Primary
Guzzone		Cosponsor
Lee		Cosponsor
Smith		Primary
Carter		Cosponsor
Washington		Cosponsor
Kagan		Cosponsor
Waldstreicher		Cosponsor
Zucker		Cosponsor
Klausmeier		Primary
Eckardt		Primary
Beidle		Primary

Roll Call Votes

Date	Description	Yea	Nay	Result
2026-03-03	On Third Reading	45	0	Passed

Official Source

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/SB0697?ys=2026RS>

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