

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2009 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 438

(Delegate Feldman, *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Finance

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**Joint Information Technology and Biotechnology Committee - Membership and Duties**

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This bill renames and codifies the Joint Technology Oversight Committee to be the Joint Information Technology and Biotechnology Committee. The membership of the committee increases from 10 to 12 with the addition of one senator and one delegate. The committee must work to broaden the support, knowledge, and awareness of information technology and biotechnology, evaluate related issues, and report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, Legislative Policy Committee, Senate Finance Committee, and House Economic Matters Committee by December 1 each year.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State finances, as Legislative Services will continue to provide a similar level of staff report as in prior years.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Joint Technology Oversight Committee was established by the General Assembly in 2000 to review the implementation of the Maryland Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act and report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1 each year. The committee consists of five members of the Senate appointed by the President, and five members of the House appointed by the Speaker.

**Background:** Maryland is recognized as a leader in both the information technology and biosciences industries because of its private-sector growth and public-sector investment. In 2008 Maryland had the highest concentration of professional and technical workers in the country (25.7%) with over 54,000 computer systems design employees (sixth in the nation), and more than 3,100 information technology degrees awarded in the State annually. Maryland also supports a biosciences industry of 370 firms with \$450 million in State investment in addition to \$12.2 billion in federal funds. The State's Technology Development Corporation was recognized in 2006 as the most active early/seed stage investor in the nation by a national business magazine.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill was introduced in the 2008 session as HB 724. HB 724 passed the House and was heard by the Senate Finance Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Budget and Management, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 2009  
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