May 15, 2014

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
H–101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 1260 – *State Government – Open Data Policy – Council on Open Data.*

This legislation establishes a State policy that open data be machine readable and released to the public in specified ways. In addition, it creates a Council on Open Data and provides for the composition, appointment, terms, chairs, and staffing of this Council. The Council is required to promote the policy on open data by providing specified guidance and policy recommendations, advocating for specified practices, and making recommendations on the purchase of specified data processing devices, systems, or software.

Senate Bill 644, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 1260.

Sincerely,

Governor Martin O'Malley