

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 718 (Senator Hough)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Statewide Information Technology Master Plan - Security Policy

This bill requires that the statewide information technology master plan (ITMP) include a policy that requires a vendor selling an information technology (IT) product or piece of equipment to the State to establish that it is safe from embedded security threats. It also requires the plan to develop steps that establish that a product or piece of equipment is safe from embedded security threats.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Although the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) can make the necessary changes to the ITMP with existing resources, ensuring that all IT products purchased and used by the State are free from embedded security threats is either not feasible or cost prohibitive. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Meaningful for small businesses that sell IT products to the State. They have to certify that all products are free from embedded security threats, which is not feasible.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Secretary of Information Technology must develop a statewide ITMP. With some exceptions, primarily for public institutions of higher education, each unit of State government must develop and submit an IT plan and annual project plans to the Secretary. IT developed, purchased, and used by State agencies must be consistent with the statewide ITMP.

The fiscal 2015 ITMP “is comprised of three perpetual objectives: consolidation, interoperability and standards.”

State Fiscal Effect: DoIT and the Office of Information Systems within the Department of Legislative Services advise that the bill’s objectives cannot be met because both the cost and technical aspects of ensuring that a device is free from embedded security threats are prohibitive. Any effort to achieve those standards, they conclude, would likely double the cost of technology products purchased by the State and require a level of staffing expertise that is not currently available in State government. The State currently spends at least \$135 million annually to purchase IT hardware and software; DoIT advises that the bill also applies to computer systems imbedded in vehicles and appliances such as geographic positioning systems and entertainment systems. Enforcement of such a requirement would also require regular inspections and/or an ongoing State presence in manufacturing plants that produce IT equipment and products sold to the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1162 of 2014 received an unfavorable report from the House Health and Government Operations Committee. HB 1276 of 2013 received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken on the bill.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Information Technology, Department of General Services, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Maryland Department of Transportation, University System of Maryland, Governor’s Office of Minority Affairs, Department of Legislative Services

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