

Date: March 16, 2020

Bill: Senate Bill 83 - State Government - Delivery of Notices and Communications by Electronic Means - Authorized

Position: Support

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) is providing this letter of support for Senate Bill 83 - State Government - Delivery of Notices and Communications by Electronic Means - Authorized. DoIT serves the citizens of Maryland by empowering Executive Branch agencies to work more efficiently, effectively, and securely than ever before. The intent of this bill is to allow units of State government to serve the citizens of Maryland in a more efficient manner by communicating with them via electronic mail in lieu of first class mail.

Under Senate Bill 83 units of State government would have the option to send electronic mail in lieu of first class mail if the individual they are trying to communicate with has given their consent to receive communication via electronic mail.

The use of electronic communications in lieu of first class mail in these certain instances will save state government tax dollars and give individuals the ability to use email to communicate with units of government in the same way that most individuals do with any other business entity. Implementation of this bill is optional and does not require any unit of government or individual to change the way in which they currently communicate.

A general example of where this is most useful is with expiration and renewal of permits, certifications or licenses. In these cases the individual has already been dealing with the unit of government and may prefer to receive such notices via email instead of regular mail to speed up the process and save on postage cost.

The intent of this bill is not to change procedures for units of government who are already communicating with individuals electronically, but to give the option of electronic delivery to those units of government who have been mandated to use first class mail by outdated language in the Maryland code.

For these reasons the Maryland Department of Information Technology requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 83 as amended in the Senate.