

January 14, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Health and Government Operation Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Pendergrass,

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) is providing this letter of information for House Bill 224 - Department of Information Technology - Study of a Common Information Technology (IT) Platform for Health Occupations Boards. This bill would require DoIT to conduct a review of the IT platforms used by certain health occupations boards and make recommendations on the feasibility and cost of developing common IT platforms.

DoIT continues to find ways to standardize IT throughout the State Government to create a more effective and efficient governmental IT system. The review of IT platforms and other systems throughout the health occupations boards is a good first step to recognizing that standardization. By doing these reviews, DoIT could possibly find areas in which these boards can run their online operations in a more efficient manner saving taxpayer money in the long term.

By standardizing the IT platforms for the health occupations boards it also allows those boards to focus more on their missions rather than on their websites and other IT operations that would be standardized. Use of these standardized platforms would lead to ensuring greater security, being able to more easily support the needs of the platforms and reduce user confusion across the different boards.

Unfortunately even though DoIT finds this study to be important, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, MDH and DoIT do not have the financial resources available for this study at this time.

If you have additional questions, please contact Patrick Mulford, External Affairs Director, at (410)-697-9495 or patrick.mulford@maryland.gov.

Best,

Michael G. Leahy