



Senator Brian Feldman, Chair  
Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice-Chair  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: *Senate Bill 982/HB1188: Information Technology – Modernization of Information Technology Projects – Support***

**February 22, 2024**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members:

On behalf of Varonis Systems, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support to Senate Bill 982, entitled: *Information Technology – Modernization of Information Technology Projects*.

Senate Bill 982 is a comprehensive piece of legislation that was born out of the bi-partisan efforts in the Maryland General Assembly nearly two years ago. During the 2022 Legislative Session, state lawmakers enacted several critical pieces of legislation that significantly advanced the state's cybersecurity activities for many years.

On May 12th, 2022, Governor Hogan signed three (3) significant bills that will fund new technology purchases and staffing positions, solidify Maryland's cyber policy structure, and modernize the state's legacy systems from future threats of attacks.

*o Senate Bill 754/ Chapter 241: Local Cybersecurity Support Act of 2022*

*o Senate Bill 812/ Chapter 242: State Government – Cybersecurity – Coordination & Governance*

*o House Bill 1205/ Chapter 243: Modernize Maryland Act of 2022*

Senate Bill 811/ House Bill 1205 (CHAPTER 243) — Modernize Maryland Act of 2022, created the Statewide Reporting Framework and Oversight Commission within the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) to advise on and evaluate the upkeep of critical information technology and cybersecurity systems.

Pursuant to the requirements of Md. Code, State Finance & Procurement Article § 3.5-316 there is an Independent Modernize Maryland Oversight Commission. The purpose of the commission is to:

1. Ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information held by the State concerning State residents; and
2. Advise the Secretary and State Chief Information Security Officer on:

- a. The appropriate information technology and cybersecurity investments and upgrades;
- b. The funding sources for the appropriate information technology and cybersecurity upgrades; and
- c. Future mechanisms for the procurement of the appropriate information technology and cybersecurity upgrades, including ways to increase the efficiency of procurements made for information technology and cybersecurity upgrades.

In late December, the Commission performed their statutory charge and issued their initial report. This report contained twenty (20) recommendations that were adopted unanimously by the Commission at its December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. These recommendations span modernization funding, governance, advice and oversight, planning, management, IT organization, and procurement. Senate Bill 982 builds on the Commission's report by adopting many of their recommendations in the legislation.

As written, Senate Bill 982 would accomplish the following:

- (1) Alter the authority of the Board of Public Works over proposals to modernize IT systems;
- (2) Establishes an Information Technology Investment Fund that will assess and replace legacy systems;
- (3) Require annual state appropriations to support the Fund, beginning in FY26;
- (4) Establish the Technology Investment Board with the DoIT; and
- (5) Alter the duties and membership of the Modernize Maryland Oversight Commission.

We strongly supported the Commission's work and comprehensive series of the recommendations contained in their December 2023 report. We are encouraged that several of these recommendations are now being considered by the Maryland General Assembly, in the form of Senate Bill 982. The enactment of this bill will continue advancing Maryland's IT modernization progress that began in 2022.

It is for these reasons that Varonis supports the passage of Senate Bill 982 and urges this committee to give this legislation a FAVORABLE report.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,



Jason Bonasera  
Varonis Systems, Inc.