

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SB 982 (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – MODERNIZATION OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS)

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POSITION: SUPPORT

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Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am Dr. Greg von Lehmen, interim staff to the Modernize Maryland Oversight Commission. I am here to support SB 982 as consistent with the Commission's recommendations.

Senate Bill 982 would implement the large majority of the Commission's recommendations. As a whole, these recommendations were informed by discussions over six months with the CIOs and IT staff of other states and experts in procurement and modernization funding. These discussions were structured to zero in on the questions critical to the success of modernization efforts: what 'systems' are states modernizing, what projects are prioritized, what procurement processes are used, how are projects funded, what are the success metrics, and most importantly, what are the lessons learned.

Informed by this process, SB 982 does two things.

First, it provides a practical and tested roadmap for modernization success. Specifically, the bill:

- Stipulates the right starting points. It requires that there be an enterprise architecture and standards in place so that new applications can be coordinated, leverage with each other, and produce maximum efficiencies; that legacy systems be inventoried and prioritized for replacement in a master plan, and that an IT investment maturity model be implemented to provide explicit criteria to evaluate projects, guidance for developing project proposals, and procedures for monitoring implementation.

- Provides for a funding model that, in not being tied to appropriation cycles, permits modernization to build momentum to deliver value early while at the same time ensuring accountability through a board with Legislative and Governor's Office representatives.
- Lays the groundwork for reconfiguring the procurement process and reducing the 18-24 month timeline for major procurements. The bill does this by requiring a thorough external review and recommendations that are benchmarked against industry practices.

The second major thing the bill does is to preserve a rechartered Commission as an essential element in the State's modernization journey. The Commission would continue to identify modernization best practices to share with the Executive and Legislative Branches and would contribute to oversight by scoring modernization progress as occurs at the Federal level.

The bill has high fidelity to recommendations which are the product of considerable due diligence by the Commission. I urge a favorable report.

Thank you.