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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony for Senate Bill 955**  
**State Government– Technology Advisory Commission–Established**  
**February 22, 2024**

Good afternoon Chair Feldman, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Maryland is home to artificial intelligence leaders across various fields of higher education, industry, and government. Earlier this year, on January 8<sup>th</sup>, Governor Moore executed an Executive Order 01.01.2024.02 which noted that “[a]rtificial intelligence is transforming society and work in myriad ways, and the pace of that change will continue to accelerate - unlocking new opportunities and risks for Maryland's residents, workers, and economy.” He continued, “To meet the moment, the State must begin its work to ensure the use of AI in Maryland state government is responsible, ethical, beneficial, and trustworthy.” The Governor concluded that “Leaders across Maryland government share a common interest in establishing effective AI governance, and are committed to working together to develop the legal and policy framework for its responsible use in the State.”<sup>1</sup>

I believe that Senate Bill 955 (“SB 955”) one piece of the puzzle for the legislature to provide a portion of this “legal and policy framework” the Governor describes in his Executive Order. I state this because I know our colleague, Senator Hester is working on additional legislation to flesh these issues out as well. What does SB 955 propose to do?

SB 955 does a few things. First, it introduces definitions to “Algorithmic Decision System,” “Commission,” and “Responsible Artificial Intelligence.” SB 955 also brings together those much more expert than us and creates a Technology Advisory Commission (“the Commission”) consisting of representatives from various colleges and universities across the State, as well as designees from the Maryland Technology Council, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients, the Secretary of Information, the

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Order 01.01.2024.02 “Catalyzing the Responsible and Productive Use of Artificial Intelligence in Maryland State Government”.

Maryland Total Human Services Integrated Network Platform, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Health, the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Information Technology Advisory Counsel, the Division of Parole and Probation, the Office of Investigation, Intelligence, and Fugitive Apprehension, the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services, the Attorney General, and the Chief Attorney of the Legal Aid Bureau.

Under this legislation, the Commission is responsible: (1) advising the Governor's Executive Counsel's Intelligence Subcabinet on technology and science developments, (2) making recommendations on responsible and productive uses of algorithmic decision systems in Maryland, including how systems can be implemented consistent with Maryland values, (3) reviewing and making recommendations on the Artificial Intelligence Subcabinet's algorithmic decision systems policies, (4) providing insight, evaluations, recommendations, and oversight regarding the development and application of algorithmic decision systems, machine learning, associated algorithms, and technology in the state, (5) establishing workgroups to study and make recommendations regarding various topics involving artificial intelligence, algorithmic decision systems, machine learning, and other related topics, and (6) being available to provide guidance to any unit of the State Government, county Boards of Education, the Maryland Judiciary, or the Maryland General Assembly.

SB 955 explicitly states that nothing in the law would require a vendor to publicly disclose proprietary information or compromise their intellectual property rights. Further, SB 955 requires the Governor to include an appropriation of \$100,000 to the Commission in the annual budget. Finally, the Commission would be responsible for submitting an annual report on its activities and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a favorable report for SB 955.