

Written Testimony - 2024 - MD SB982 - FINAL.pdf

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Position: FAV



February 21, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland State Senate

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Vice Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland State Senate

Re: Support of Senate Bill 982 (Information Technology – Modernization of IT Projects)

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

The Alliance for Digital Innovation (ADI) is a nonpartisan alliance of technology companies focused on accelerating change in the public sector through the adoption of commercial technology. Our members are some of the most prominent and innovative technology firms in the nation, including many that already proudly serve the State of Maryland.

ADI supports Senate Bill 982 and strongly encourages you to advance this legislation from your committee to the Senate floor.

Public agencies must be equipped with the best technology and cybersecurity tools available to deliver effective services to the people of the State of Maryland. The unfortunate reality is that there are many outdated legacy information technology (IT) systems with weak security still in use across government.

True digital transformation and the adoption of modern, agile development and procurement processes, coupled with the decommissioning of current legacy systems, is a time-consuming endeavor that typically crosses multiple budget cycles. Even when planned judiciously, worthwhile efforts to provide better, more secure citizen services through commercial capabilities are often hampered by appropriations timelines and inflexibilities in the process.

By creating the Information Technology Investment Fund, Senate Bill 982 provides an important opportunity to modernize and secure Maryland's IT systems and networks. Namely, this creates a capacity to enable necessary, and long overdue, investments in modern commercial capabilities across state government to transform legacy IT systems and improve Maryland's cybersecurity posture.

In the federal government, a similar program known as the Technology Modernization Fund (TMF) has existed since 2016. It has proven to be successful and served as an important tool in the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The TMF has invested in fifty-one IT projects across nearly thirty federal agencies to date, with most of these projects addressing urgent IT modernization or cybersecurity challenges.¹ The primary objective

¹ <https://tmf.cio.gov/projects>

of the TMF is to address the longstanding challenge of aging and insecure federal IT systems, which poses risks to data security, hinder efficiency, and impede the delivery of citizen services. The TMF operates as a central pool of money for which federal agencies can apply to finance certain categories of IT modernization projects.

One of the key features of the TMF is its emphasis on a rigorous project evaluation process. Agencies interested in accessing funds must submit comprehensive proposals detailing their modernization plans, including projected cost savings, timelines, and anticipated benefits. The proposals undergo a thorough review by the Technology Modernization Board, a panel of experts appointed to oversee the allocation of funds. Most importantly, the board works with TMF administrators to establish clear eligibility criteria that applies to all applications. This competitive and merit-based approach ensures that the funds are directed toward projects with the greatest potential for impact and success.

Other states have adopted versions of this funding strategy for IT modernization projects, with California² and Texas³ being the most prominent. These modernization funds allow their state's IT leaders to balance diverse needs across state agencies and prioritize investments in a transparent manner. **Senate Bill 982 incorporates the key features of these modernization funds and creates a version that works best for the State of Maryland.**

Going forward, it will be critical for legislative leaders to work with the proposed Technology Investment Board to identify sufficient funding for this program. Ultimately, IT modernization is about moving agencies off insecure and increasingly expensive legacy systems and ensuring modern commercial technology is being acquired and used to deliver better value and superior digital services to taxpayers. **To enable the State of Maryland to truly modernize at scale and better leverage cutting edge commercial technology, ADI strongly encourages members of the Committee to support Senate Bill 982 and work with the Budget and Taxation Committee to ensure sufficient funding is available for this new program to be successful.**

Thank you for your attention to this effort to create sustainable funding to help modernize the State of Maryland's public systems. Please consider ADI as a resource as the committee deliberates on this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Dan Wolf

Director of State Programs
Alliance for Digital Innovation

² <https://cdt.ca.gov/tmf/>

³ <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/html/HB04018F.HTM>

von Lehmen__Staff_Maryland Cybersecurity Council__

Uploaded by: Greg Lehmen

Position: FAV

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

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

DR. GREG VON LEHMEN
INTERIM STAFF, MODERNIZE MARYLAND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

POSITION: SUPPORT

February 22, 2024

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.

Hsu, Jacob_Testimony_Support for SB0982.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Hsu

Position: FAV

Dear Chair and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB0982, a bill that will significantly accelerate the process of modernizing our State's Information Technology (IT) systems through adopting a modern digital services approach. As our world continues to evolve rapidly, the need for agile, efficient, and user-centric IT solutions has never been more critical, especially in civic systems that are used by all constituents from disparate socioeconomic backgrounds. The adoption of a modern digital services model is not just an upgrade; it's a transformational shift that promises to redefine how we deliver citizen services, engage with stakeholders, and achieve our collective objectives.

The existing process has been hampered by lack of continuity and consistent strategic planning, disparate priorities, and layers of bureaucratic oversight by entities that are far removed from the actual modernization work that needs to be addressed. Key provisions of SB0982 such as modifying the statutory responsibilities of the Secretary of Information Technology, exempting IT modernization project procurements from Board of Public Works (BPW) approval under certain conditions, and establishing the Information Technology Investment Fund within DoIT to pay for legacy system assessments and replacements with requisite oversight, will significantly unlock momentum to address the grave state of IT in our State.

The digital services approach centers on leveraging the latest technologies and methodologies to create more responsive, accessible, and secure IT environments. By embracing cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and mobile technologies, we can significantly enhance our operational efficiency and provide superior service to our users. This approach also emphasizes the importance of user experience (UX) design, ensuring that digital services are intuitive, reliable, and accessible to all, including those with disabilities. SB0982 would enable the State to be able to procure from vendors who are able to work in a more adaptive, iterative, co-creative way than the current approach, which has led to long cost overruns and lack of continuity due to scope changes.

One of the key benefits of modernizing our IT through digital services is the potential for improved data management and analytics capabilities. With advanced data analysis tools, we can gain deeper insights into our operations, customer behaviors, and market trends. This will enable us to make informed decisions, identify new opportunities, and anticipate challenges more effectively. There are new technical innovations that have arisen in just the past 12 months such as AI-enabled code generators and new techniques for encapsulation that should be adopted as part of the modernization process. However these approaches should be adopted incrementally in smaller projects, which SB0982 would advance.

Moreover, the digital services model supports a culture of continuous improvement and innovation. By adopting agile development practices and fostering a collaborative environment, we can iteratively improve our services, responding quickly to user feedback and changing requirements. This approach not only accelerates the development cycle but also ensures that our digital services remain relevant and valuable over time. A more agile approach to procurement and contracting smaller, "bite-sized" smart contracts would greatly reduce both the cost and time-to-adoption cycles for large scale legacy systems.

Security is another cornerstone of the digital services approach. As cyber threats continue to evolve, it is imperative that our IT systems are built with robust security measures from the ground up. By prioritizing security in every aspect of our digital services, we can protect sensitive information, maintain user trust, and comply with regulatory requirements.

To realize these benefits, it is essential that we invest in the necessary resources, including talent, technology, and training. We must also foster a culture that embraces change, encourages experimentation, and rewards innovation. This will require strong leadership, clear vision, and a commitment to excellence from all levels of our organization.

In conclusion, the modernization of our IT through a digital services approach is a strategic imperative that will position us for success in the digital age. It promises to enhance our efficiency, improve service delivery, and drive innovation. I urge all stakeholders to support this transformative journey by supporting SB0982, as we work together to build a more agile, responsive, and user-focused IT environment.

Thank you for considering this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Jacob Hsu

Chairman

Just Economy

RJR-(Varonis) SB982 Letter (SUPPORT)(2024).pdf

Uploaded by: Jason Bonasera

Position: FAV



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 14th 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.

2024-CAMI-SB982.pdf

Uploaded by: John Fiastro

Position: FAV

FAVORABLE

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
EDUCATION, ENERGY AND THE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 982
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – MODERNIZATION OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

TASHA CORNISH
CYBERSECURITY ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, INC.

POSITION: FAVORABLE

February 22, 2024

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 982.

The Cybersecurity Association of Maryland, Inc. (“CAMI”) supports SB 982. CAMI is a statewide, 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization established in 2015, created to drive the growth of Maryland's cybersecurity industry. Our membership includes over 600 firms ranging in size from Fortune 500 companies to solo owner operators and represents nearly 100,000 Maryland employees.

CAMI worked closely with the sponsor on the original Modernize Maryland legislation in 2022. Particularly, CAMI worked hard on the makeup and responsibilities of the Modernize Maryland Commission. The Commission is meant to serve as a board of directors for Maryland’s modernization, providing insights from both members of the public and private sectors. Through the membership of such experts, the State can create a thorough and longstanding plan that can transcend administrations.

SB 982 aims to modernize Maryland's state government IT infrastructure through key strategies:

- Creates a non-lapsing Information Technology Investment Fund to finance legacy system assessments and replacements. Investing in modernization is fundamental to maintaining secure IT systems; a non-lapsing fund will ensure that state agencies have access to the funds they need for these imperative upgrades.
- Expands the duties of the Modernize Maryland Oversight Commission to focus on best practices for modernization and providing recommendations to government units and the legislature.
- Exempts IT modernization projects from approval by the Board of Public Works, streamlining the process and reducing friction in the modernization process.
- Requires the Secretary of Information Technology to develop a State Modernization Plan

FAVORABLE

and a strategy for centralizing IT management to reduce costs and unnecessary redundancies.

This bill can affect lasting change, including: improved government efficiency; public-private collaboration opportunities; and transparency and accountability. For these reasons, CAMI supports SB 982 and requests a favorable report from the committee.

2024-22-02_Srivastava_MMOC_SB 982.pdf

Uploaded by: Manoj Srivastava

Position: FAV

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

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

MANOJ SRIVASTAVA
CHAIR, MODERNIZE MARYLAND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

POSITION: SUPPORT
February 22, 2024

Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the committee! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am Manoj Srivastava, chair of the Modernize Maryland Oversight Commission. I have been in the private sector, particularly in the cybersecurity space for 25 years, and am a proud resident of the State of Maryland. I urge favorable consideration of the SB 982 bill.

The bill includes a vast number of recommendations from the Modernize Maryland Oversight Commission’s report to achieve various modernization objectives. They span modernization funding, governance, planning, management and IT organization, and procurement, adopting a “whole of state” mindset.

I have a few key points of view regarding how we should look at technology modernization for the state.

First, modernization is an opportunity to not only focus on legacy modernization to produce more secure, reliable, and maintainable systems at optimal costs but also to rethink and transform how the business of government is done and how a practical end-to-end experience of IT services is delivered to the citizens from their point of view. Drawing parallels from my role in the cybersecurity private sector, vendors have shifted over the past few years to a cybersecurity platform-based approach in delivering solutions to their customers rather than following a disparate best-of-breed point solution approach. That mindset of providing a holistic solution improves the total cost of ownership, adoption, and maintenance for the end customer and significantly enhances the customer’s experience. The platform-based approach has accelerated the establishment of deeper alliances between cybersecurity vendors, with the vital beneficiary being a much-improved end-to-end experience for their customers.

Second, with that lens into modernization, the state must establish a dedicated modernization IT investment fund with funding direction from a cross-functional IT Modernization Investment Board. Along with this, there must also be the proper structure in place to ensure transparency about the progress in addressing modernization objectives across the Executive Branch.

Third, as we execute these goals, we must seek ways to deliver value to the citizens often. Many of us have not only seen the technology revolution from the birth of a silicon chip and its evolution but also personally experienced how the value in the form of millions of products and technologies built with that fundamental component has transformed our lives. We are fortunate to be part of a second similar technology revolution in our lifetime with Generative AI. While the technology around large language models evolves every day, the value from applications and services built on that underlying technology is visible daily with incremental improvements, intending to continually improve the end user's experience. From my shoes in the private sector, the key to remaining competitive in the markets we compete in while leveraging such technologies is to deliver value early and often.

Finally, this report is delivered at the end of the first year of the Moore-Miller Administration. There is clearly a sense of excitement within the new team that Secretary Savage has put together at DoIT. We recognize, however, that the Administration's vision "to bring Maryland to the forefront of cutting-edge and emergent technology in better service of our State" cannot be achieved unless the Department is properly resourced and empowered. Given the technical debt of the State, we believe achieving this strategy is likely a multi-billion and multi-year endeavor if taken seriously.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify!

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Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FWA



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Katie Fry Hester

FROM: Christine K. Krone
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter

DATE: February 22, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 982 – *Information Technology – Modernization of Information Technology Projects*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential, making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support with amendment** for Senate Bill 982.

Senate Bill 982 aims to address areas of concern within Maryland's information technology (IT) landscape by reforming the governance, oversight, and management of IT modernization and centralization of projects within the State. This comprehensive bill will help enhance efficiency, and bolster cybersecurity measures. MTC is very supportive of the goals outlined by this bill. However, we request an amendment to add “A member of the Maryland Technology Council” to the membership of the Technology Investment Board. MTC would support this amendment in addition to or in place of the “member of the public, appointed by the Governor.” As many of the technology systems used by State government are provided by private outside vendors, we believe it is critical that a voice with expertise in such systems be included in these proceedings. The addition of this member would help better inform the Board’s funding decisions. Together, through collaborative efforts and strategic initiatives, we can propel Maryland towards a more technologically advanced and resilient future. With the adoption of the noted amendment, we urge a **favorable** report.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
410-244-7000

'24 SB 982 IT-Modernization of IT Projects LOC EEE

Uploaded by: Ellen Robertson

Position: INFO

BILL: Senate Bill 982 - Information Technology - Modernization of Information Technology Projects

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy and Environment

DATE: February 22, 2024

POSITION: Letter of Concern

Upon review of Senate Bill 982 – Information Technology - Modernization of Information Technology Projects, the Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments.

It appears that the legislation will have a **significant operational and fiscal impact on the DGS** by reversing the intent of House Bill 1021, Chapter 590 2017, which consolidated all Maryland procurement into a uniform process. The bill creates an alternate procurement path for major information technology development projects that involve the modernization of information technology and legacy systems.

Senate Bill 982 will:

- create and allow complete procurement autonomy under the Information Technology Investment Fund to DoIT rather than submitting procurement awards to the Board of Public Works (BPW);
- remove BPW approval for modernization contracts/proposals which typically are costly contracts; and
- decrease oversight for IT procurements, which typically have the lowest participation in MBE and VSBE programs.

Further concerns with the bill may be apparent upon clarification of a term used, “proposal” as synonymous with “procurement” and the status or loss of the fee vendors pay to utilize eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA). It could be assumed that the use of eMMA would not apply to vendors of modernization of information technology and legacy systems projects. Additionally, it is unclear if monthly mandated Procurement Agency Activity Reports (PAAR) to the BPW would still be required. If the PAAR is still required, DGS would realize an increase in the volume of the monthly report.

DGS has concerns with Senate Bill 982 and we ask that you keep these factors in mind while considering this legislation. For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at 410-260-2908 or Lisa Nissley at 410-260-2922.

SB 982 LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Hayes

Position: INFO

Letter of Information – Senate Bill 982
Information Technology - Modernization of Information Technology Projects
Budget and Tax Committee
February 22, 2024

We thank Senator Hester for her ongoing and proactive communication with the Office of the Comptroller. Modernizing aging IT systems, of which our agency has several, is of paramount importance. This letter of information is specifically focused on the legacy technology within the state and the associated costs and risks of maintaining legacy systems.

Currently, the Comptroller of Maryland manages the mainframe for the State through the Annapolis Data Center (ADC). This mainframe houses and maintains applications for most agencies and the university systems. Currently, there are over 100 applications from approximately 65 agencies living in the mainframe.

Currently, many critical state infrastructure applications run on the ADC mainframe, and we agree with Sen. Hester that removing applications from the mainframe should be a state priority for operational, security, and modernization reasons, among others.

Currently, maintaining the mainframe and associated ADC costs requires an investment of \$28 million annually. This includes hardware, software, personnel, facility costs and more. Modernizing our legacy systems requires an initial investment that will recoup the investments over the medium and long term.

Some examples of significant legacy systems that run on the mainframe which are unique to the Comptroller's Office include payroll for state employees, our financial management information system, and our tax processing systems.

The Comptroller's Office houses and manages the revenue collection technology for the state. This is critical state infrastructure. The current system is called SMART and is a mainframe application. SMART is utilized for all business and personal tax processing as well as some related fees. SMART is currently being migrated to the cloud with a new build called Compass (internally) and Maryland Tax Connect (externally). SMART (and soon Compass) collects around \$40 billion annually so this modernization efforts needs to happen correctly.



The Central Payroll Bureau (CPB) is in the process of being moved to the cloud in a deliberate and planned fashion. CPB is the payer for over 110,000 state employees including workers at state agencies and universities and it is a complex operation that runs three separate payroll jobs each pay cycle.

Finally, a critical legacy system that touches numerous agencies is the Financial Management Information System (FMIS). Although the hardware of FMIS is not managed by the Comptroller, FMIS is internally directed by the Comptroller. Once FMIS is replaced, it will be completely housed within the Office of the Comptroller. FMIS is responsible for all payments, invoices, transfers, tracking, etc. The current system has about \$65 billion pass through it annually and a new, modernized system is currently being discussed via legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2023 (HB709/SB659).

Thank you again to the bill sponsors and, should this bill pass, we look forward to working in concert with the sponsor and the General Assembly to ensure the bill is implemented as intended.

As always, the Comptroller's Office remains committed to supporting initiatives that benefit the community and look forward to working with you on this matter. Please contact Justin Hayes, Director of State Affairs at jhayes@marylandtaxes.gov or 410-260-7696, with any questions.