

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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

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POSITION: SUPPORT
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Madam Chair, 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 Independent Modernize Maryland Oversight Commission. With the approval of the Commission chair, I am here to support SB 982 as largely consistent with the spirit if not the letter of the Independent Commission’s substantial report.

By way of background, the Commission’s report and its recommendations were informed by discussions over six months with the CIOs and IT staff of five other states and experts in procurement and modernization funding. The states were both larger and smaller, including Michigan, Georgia, Nebraska, Connecticut, and Utah. The 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.

There are at least five ways in which SB 982 benefits from the due diligence conducted by the Independent Commission.

First, the bill creates the structure whereby technology investments can be made in an optimal way to serve the public interest. It does this by expressing the legislative intent to “centralize” in DoIT the “oversight and responsibility” for IT projects across “units of State government”. This centralization will allow an enterprise view to inform the prioritization of IT investment projects and achieve synergies among those projects.

Second, SB 982 provides the roadmap for informed investment decision-making and project management. It provides:

- a) That DoIT create an IT modernization plan
- b) That the plan be informed by an inventory of legacy systems across units of State government
- c) That investment decision-making and project oversight be guided by an IT investment maturity model

Third, the bill recognizes the advantage of modernizing faster rather than slower by a) providing for a technology investment fund, a category of expedited projects eligible to be financed through the fund, and expedited BPW approval of those project, and b) requiring an external study of the State's procurement system to make recommendations to enable it to be nimbler.

Finally, the bill preserves a rechartered Commission as an essential element in the State's modernization journey. Under SB 982, the Commission would identify modernization best practices, make recommendations for modernizing specific IT systems, and provide recommendations to promote transparency of modernization efforts.

In sum, if the committee is looking for a well-informed modernization bill for the State, SB 982 is one. I urge a favorable report.

Thank you.