

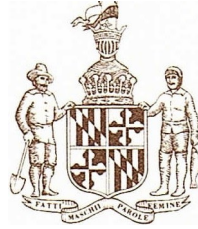
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Howard County

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and
Health Facilities
Public Health and Minority
Health Disparities



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF
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March 5th, 2024

SUPPORT

HB999 - Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

House Bill 999 establishes the Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network. This initiative is vital to address the increasing need for a cohesive strategy to utilize science and technology advancements for the benefit of Maryland residents.

As we confront complex challenges across various sectors, such as healthcare, the environment, transportation, and agriculture, harnessing science and technology to inform our policies and practices is crucial. However, the fragmented nature of expertise and resources often limits our ability to leverage these advancements fully. With its ever-changing landscape and the emergence of tools like artificial intelligence, the tech industry underscores the necessity for legislators to have access to consistent and reliable information from a diverse group of experts.

HB999 establishes a workgroup to:

- (1) Identify and analyze options for creating and maintaining a network of experts in science, technology, and industry to:
 - Foster collaboration with the State and facilitate the exchange of state-of-the-art data and information.
 - Promote solution development and decision-making based on sound science, innovation, and best practices.
- (2) Evaluate methods for establishing a digital-virtual referral network and registry of experts, which will upon expand existing entities and be made available to the public.
- (3) Examine the costs associated with developing and maintaining such a network.
- (4) Provide recommendations for a science and technology best practices and innovation network, delivering their findings and suggestions to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2024.

The workgroup will comprise a diverse array of experts, including members appointed by the Speaker of the House, Secretaries of relevant State Departments or their designees, representatives from the private and nonprofit sectors advocating for ethical practices, as well as individuals with expertise in science, technology, and innovation from various educational institutions across the State. This composition ensures representation from historically Black colleges or universities, independent institutions of higher education, and community colleges.

I urge a favorable report on HB999 to facilitate the informed decision-making and effective implementation of science and technology best practices for Maryland's advancement.

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