

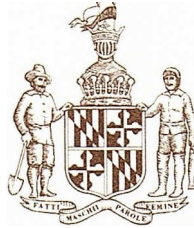
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Health and Government
Operations Committee

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Government Operations and
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Public Health and Minority
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 5, 2024

HB1174 State Government - Technology Advisory Commission - Established

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice-chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

HB1174 would establish a Maryland Technology Advisory Commission to study and advise the State on the development and use of advancing technology and the applications of technology and science in and by the state. As Maryland moves forward in becoming the premiere state for advancing technology and innovation with an emphasis on responsible AI, while continuing advancement of opportunity and prosperity for all its residents in equitable and inclusive ways that promote our highest values, the expertise of those working and pushing the field are critical partners to ensure that we are doing so effectively and responsibly. In the rapidly evolving worlds of algorithmic systems, artificial intelligence, and machine learning we must be able to accurately anticipate and respond to new developments. Doing so will put us in the best position to create and sustain an environment that ensures best practice implementation for responsible use of AI and other technology, strong privacy protections, necessary worker protections, and the shielding of intellectual property and proprietary information needed to incentivize and promote investment and innovation.

We cannot afford to move into the future repeating the mistake of the past and must minimize the need to respond retroactively to remedy unintended consequences of policies, systems, and actions which, in retrospect, were ill-advised or inadequately informed. The analyses and recommendations of the Commission will support more deliberate implementation and administration of procedures, particularly where algorithmic design is used in designing programs, procuring operational tools, and administering policy.

There are numerous applications and benefits to having such a resource available - a think tank, of sorts, drawn from tech and science experts from academia, private, and public sectors, across broad areas of expertise, who are not just engaging in the latest science and technology but are also developing it. While it is important that Maryland be timely in adaptation of emerging technologies and avoid allowing antiquated systems to undermine efficiencies and effectiveness, it is equally important that we are alert to the dangers of too rapid adaptation and understand the emerging risk associated with specific innovations.

HB1174 is in alignment with the Governor's AI in State Use Executive Order and complements HB1271/SB0818, the Artificial Intelligence Governance Act of 2024, to ensure our transition to greater use of AI in and out of state government is done with adequate and appropriately updated oversight, monitoring, and security in place. This is especially important since while with great promise also comes great risks and potential for harm. Innovators focus on potential benefits. We, on the other hand, cannot afford to so starry-eyed and must anticipate potentially harmful effects as well and respond accordingly. There is much on the line and the guidance of this brain trust will be invaluable in helping us meet our responsibilities.

I am submitting amendments designating the UMBC designee as vice -chair and, at their request, adding the Maryland Insurance Administration and the University System of Maryland to the Commission and I urge a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Hill".