



Senate Finance Committee

March 20, 2025

House Bill 956 – *Consumer Protection – Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence Implementation*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC), with over 800 members, is the State's largest association of technology companies. Our vision is to propel Maryland to be the country's number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology. MTC brings the State's life sciences and technology communities into a united organization that empowers members to achieve their goals through advocacy, networking, and education. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of support for House Bill 956.

This bill establishes a Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Implementation to monitor issues and make recommendations related to AI, including (1) the regulation of AI used in decisions that significantly impact the livelihood and life opportunities of individuals in the State; (2) deployer and developer obligations related to labor and employment and the protection of individuals privacy rights; (3) the protection of consumer rights; (4) current private sector use of AI; (5) general AI disclosures for all consumers; and (6) enforcement authority for the Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division. By July 1, 2026, and each year thereafter, the workgroup must report its findings and recommendations to specified committees of the General Assembly.

The topic of how the State should regulate AI is a complicated new area of the law that requires a careful balance of safety, transparency, and consumer protection with the reality that AI is enmeshed with our daily lives. MTC also believes that we must regulate AI in a manner that keeps Maryland economically competitive and welcoming of tech innovation. We applaud the sponsor's approach to tackling those issues through the creation of a Workgroup composed of lawmakers and subject matter experts to examine all the complicated factors that must be considered. We are particularly appreciative that the proposed Workgroup includes four representatives from the MTC and additional representatives from the e-commerce and biotechnology industries. We look forward to participating in the Workgroup discussions and contributing to recommendations for the sensible regulation of AI. We request a **favorable** report on House Bill 956.

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