MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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HB 956 - Consumer Protection - Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence Implementation
Senate Finance Committee
March 20, 2025

SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS

Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 956 if all of our amendments are accepted. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

HB 956 purports to establish a workgroup on artificial intelligence (AI) implementation. We appreciate the commitment to study the potential benefits and risks of using AI. However, several important stakeholders are missing, including voices from labor and representatives from key industries that AI is heavily used in. As stated, the focus of the workgroup is monitoring and recommending AI use in decision making impacting the livelihood of individuals in the state and deployer and developer obligations to labor and employment. It is imperative to include representatives from labor on the workgroup.

We strongly believe the quality of the conversation and decisions are significantly enhanced when we include the voices of those who will be directly impacted by the workgroup's recommendations.

To address this absence, we propose the following amendments:

On pg. 2, after (4), insert:
"(5) THE STATE CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE"

On pg. 2, after line 12, insert:

"(II) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CYBERSECURITY INDUSTRY;"

On pg. 2, after line 14, insert:
"(III) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE RETAIL INDUSTRY"

On pg. 2, after (III), insert:
"(IV) THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY"

On pg. 2, under (VI), insert:
"(6) THREE REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND STATE AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AFL-CIO"

On pg. 3, strike lines 3-4 and replace with:
"THE WORKGROUP SHALL REVIEW AND ANALYZE LEGISLATION CONSIDERED DURING THE 2022, 2023, 2024, AND 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INCLUDING:"

On pg. 3, line 10, **add " and worker" after "consumer" to read:**
"PROTECTION OF CONSUMER AND WORKER RIGHTS"

On pg. 3, line 16, **replace "JULY 1, 2026" with "DECEMBER 30, 2025"**