



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Katie Savage | Secretary

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Department of Information Technology
RE: Senate Bill 200 - State Government - Council for Open Data - Membership and Responsibilities
DATE: February 12, 2026
POSITION: Support

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 200 - State Government - Council for Open Data - Membership and Responsibilities, the Department of Information Technology's departmental bill before the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

The Maryland Council on Open Data was established by the Open Data Act to coordinate, and advocate for the State's open data policy, with the goal of promoting transparency, improving accountability, and enhancing government performance by ensuring that State data is accurate, up to date, and publicly available. Over the years, the Council has played an important role in increasing access to data for State agencies, local governments, the private sector, and Maryland residents.

However, the Council's current structure limits its ability to fully meet today's data needs. Limited representation from local governments and external partners in academia and the private sector has made it more difficult to collaborate effectively and expand open data efforts statewide. In addition, the Council's focus has historically been centered on technical open data portals, rather than broader priorities such as partnerships, public engagement, and alignment with the State's overall data governance strategy. The absence of a formal leadership role for the State Chief Data Officer has also made coordination across state agencies more challenging.

Senate Bill 200 addresses these challenges by modernizing the Council's membership, better aligning it with Maryland's data governance framework, and expanding its mission. The bill transforms the Council to include a broader range of voices, including representatives from local governments, the private sector, academia, and nonprofit organizations. Importantly, it



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designates the State Chief Data Officer as a permanent member and Chair of the Council, strengthening coordination across state agencies and ensuring alignment with statewide data governance efforts.

The bill also expands the Council's responsibilities, allowing it to advise on statewide data initiatives and priorities, foster stronger partnerships with communities and service organizations, and better integrate open data practices into State technology planning and procurement. As Maryland continues to reduce barriers to discovering, analyzing, and using data, these changes help ensure that open data is not only accessible but used responsibly and strategically to support transparency, innovation, and sound public policy.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Information Technology respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 200.

Best,

Katie Savage
Secretary
Department of Information Technology