



Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair  
Delegate Kenneth Kerr, Vice-Chair  
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee  
145 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: House Bill 861/Senate 581: Department of Information Technology - Statewide Information Technology Master Plan – Reporting – SUPPORT with Amendments**

**February 25, 2026**

Dear Chairwoman Wells, Vice-Chairman Kerr, and Committee Members:

On behalf of our clients, Varonis Systems and Systems Automation, we write this letter in support of **House Bill 861/Senate 581: Department of Information Technology - Statewide Information Technology Master Plan – Reporting**.

The intent of this legislation is to modernize the current law by defining, with specificity, a timeline on when the Department must produce, release, and update the State’s IT Master Plan to the Maryland General Assembly.

Moreover, the bill requires ongoing communications by the Department to the Administration and the Maryland General Assembly with regards to the status of the IT Master Plans. And increasing public transparency and informational awareness into the State’s current investments in IT infrastructures across State Government.

**Introduction:**

The successful enactment of *Senate Bill 982: Information Technology - Modernization of Information Technology Projects (2024)* and *Senate Bill 705: Department of Information Technology - Major Information Technology Development Projects – Oversight (2025)* signaled significant legislative mandates with regards to DOIT’s duties and responsibilities over IT and centralized governance of major IT development projects.

Provisions in both bills specify, clarify, and expand on the parameters of state government’s authority to procure and invest in technologies to strengthen Maryland’s overall modernization efforts, cyber and data securities and IT infrastructure. One of the major components driving progression from these new legislative initiatives to be successful for the State rests, prominently on – DOIT’s IT Master Plan.

**SB982: Bill Analysis – Maryland’s IT Master Plan:**

The bill established the intent of the General Assembly that oversight of IT be centralized in the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), and that priority be given to funding IT projects to address the needs for the public health, education, safety, or financial well-being of Maryland residents.

In broad terms, with additional detail provided below, the bill also:

- Clarified that IT includes networking and software applications and **that a unit of State government may not purchase, lease, or rent IT “unless consistent with the master plan”**, as determined by the Secretary.
- In addition, a unit of State government is required to collaborate with the Digital Service Unit (under DOIT) to ensure consistency with the IT Master Plan with regards to alignment and funding of a digital initiative(s).

This language was further expanded upon through the recent enactment of **SB705**. Now, *“a unit of State government may not purchase, lease, CONTRACT FOR, or rent AN information technology SERVICE OR PRODUCT unless consistent with the master plan, as determined by the Secretary.”*

Arguably, the IT Master Plan is the most critical component for both **SB982** and **SB705** to be effective – it is the “roadmap or blueprint” for Maryland’s management and investments in IT infrastructure across state government.

**State Finance & Procurement Article:**

By statute, (§3A-303 (a)(4), State Finance and Procurement Article), it states that the Secretary is responsible for “developing and maintaining a statewide information technology master plan that will:

- (i) be the basis for the management and direction of information technology within the Executive Branch of State government;
- (ii) include all aspects of State information technology including telecommunications, security, data processing, and information management;
- (iii) consider interstate transfers as a result of federal legislation and regulation;
- (iv) work jointly with the Secretary of Budget and Management to ensure that information technology plans and budgets are consistent;
- (v) ensure that State information technology plans, policies, and standards are consistent with State goals, objectives, and resources, and represent a long-range vision for using information technology to improve the overall effectiveness of State government; and
- (vi) include standards to assure nonvisual access to the information and services made available to the public over the Internet”

§3.5-304, also states, “the Secretary shall develop a statewide information technology master plan.” **However, the statute doesn’t express when the master plan must be completed (or updated).**

**Rising Questions & Complications:**

- 1.) To perform the necessary functions under the aforementioned provisions of SB982 and SB705, how can a state agency/ unit of government comprehend which direction they are authorized to take with regards to procuring any IT technologies unless the IT Master Plan is current?
  - The results create difficulties for units of government to properly align with parameters of procuring any IT solutions set forth in the Master Plan, thereby “bottlenecking” any forward progress and potential engagements with vendors.
- 2.) For vendors, how can they properly approach the State or cultivate new business partnerships if it’s unclear on the current direction Maryland is taking regarding technologies for acquiring cloud services, cybersecurity, data security/ management, and Ai?
  - This leaves vendors confused on where/when/ and how the State is investing and expanding Maryland’s private sectors – especially in the cybersecurity, quantum and biotech industries.

**Legislative Outcomes:**

If passed, this legislation will improve state government proficiencies with regards to procuring IT products and services necessary to accomplish their departmental goals and IT projects.

Having a current IT Master Plan will also support both units of government and vendor knowledge on the direction the State is pursuing to invest in IT infrastructure. This would not only improve vendor participation and relations with departmental CIOs but will strengthen the overall RFI and RFPs processes; project budgeting and potentially reduce unwarranted complications for the service/product to be purchased or to commence.

Constant updates and/or changes will also improve alignment between the Department (DOIT) and future legislative policies adopted by the State Legislature (ex. SB982 and SB705) that impact the IT Master Plan, directly or indirectly.

It is for these reasons that we strongly urge this committee to give HB861/SB581 a **FAVORABLE** report. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

*Richard J. Reinhardt, II*

Richard J. Reinhardt, II, *Partner*