

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 999

(Delegate Hill, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and
Innovation Network

This bill establishes the Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network, staffed by the University of Maryland Baltimore County. The workgroup must study and make recommendations on topics related to the establishment of a network of experts in science, technology, and industry. A member of the workgroup may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses. By December 1, 2024, the workgroup must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2024, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The workgroup must:

- identify and analyze options for establishing and maintaining an open access science, technology, and innovation network or hub of citizen scientists and experts in science, technology, and industry to (1) facilitate noninstitutional voluntary

collaboration; (2) facilitate the open exchange of ideas and nonproprietary state-of-the-art and evidence-based data and information; and (3) promote solution development and decision making based on sound science, innovation, and best practices;

- identify and evaluate methods for (1) establishing a digital or virtual referral network of experts in science, technology, and industry, including expansion of existing entities and networks; (2) registering expert participants; and (3) making network expertise available to the public; and
- make recommendations regarding the establishment of a science and technology best practices and innovation network.

Current Law: There is no current law that is directly relevant to the bill.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): University System of Maryland; Maryland Department of Agriculture; Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Commerce; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 29, 2024
km/mcr Third Reader - March 19, 2024
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