

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 855

(Delegate Hill)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and
Innovation Network - Alterations**

This bill alters the membership of the Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network, by reducing the number of appointees with specific expertise and affiliations. The bill also maintains the workgroup for two additional years, until June 30, 2027. Likewise, the deadline for the workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly is extended by two years to December 1, 2026. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The workgroup can be staffed for two more years with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 448 of 2024 established the Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network to:

- 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.

Chapter 448 requires, by December 1, 2024, the workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly; however, that report has not been submitted.

The workgroup is staffed by the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Additional Comments: The bill reduces the number of representatives from institutions of higher education from five to two; however, it maintains another requirement for the Governor to appoint at least one representative each from a historically Black college or university, an independent institution of higher education, and a community college.

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; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 28, 2025
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