

HOUSE BILL 262

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr0270
CF SB 200

By: **Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee (By Request –
Departmental – Information Technology)**

Requested: September 26, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 23, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Council for Open Data – Membership and Responsibilities**

3 FOR the purpose of renaming the Council on Open Data to be the Council for Open Data;
4 altering the membership, member terms, and responsibilities of the Council; and
5 generally relating to the Council for Open Data.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

7 Article – State Government

8 Section 10–1501(a)

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

12 Article – State Government

13 Section 10–1501(b) and (c), 10–1503, and 10–1504

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – State Government**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 10–1501.

2 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (b) “Council” means the Council [on] **FOR** Open Data.

4 (c) (1) “Data” means [final versions of] statistical or factual information that:

5 (i) are in alphanumeric or geospatial form reflected in a list, table,
6 graph, chart, map, or other nonnarrative format that can be digitally transmitted or
7 processed;

8 (ii) are regularly created or maintained by or on behalf of a
9 governmental entity; and

10 (iii) records a measurement, transaction, or determination or provide
11 information on government services, initiatives, and resources related to the mission of the
12 covered governmental entity.

13 (2) “Data” does not include draft versions of statistical or factual
14 information that are used for internal analysis by a governmental entity.

15 10–1503.

16 (a) There is a Council [on] **FOR** Open Data.

17 (b) The Council consists of the following [37] **11** members:

18 [(1) the Secretary of Agriculture;

19 (2) the Secretary of the Environment;

20 (3) the Secretary of Natural Resources;

21 (4) the Secretary of Planning;

22 (5) the Secretary of Transportation;

23 (6) the Secretary of Housing and Community Development;

24 (7) the Secretary of Commerce;

25 (8) the Secretary of General Services;

26 (9) the State Superintendent of Schools;

27 (10) the Secretary of Health;

- 1 (11) the Secretary of Information Technology;
- 2 (12) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services;
- 3 (13) the Secretary of State Police;
- 4 (14) the Director of Assessments and Taxation;
- 5 (15) the Secretary of Budget and Management;
- 6 (16) the Adjutant General of the Military Department;
- 7 (17) the Secretary of Emergency Management;
- 8 (18) the Secretary of Labor;
- 9 (19) the Secretary of Human Services;
- 10 (20) the Director of the Governor's Office of Performance Improvement;
- 11 (21) the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor;
- 12 (22) the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and
13 Policy;
- 14 (23) the Executive Director of the Maryland Institute for Emergency
15 Medical Services Systems;
- 16 (24) the Executive Director of the Department of Legislative Services;
- 17 (25) the State Archivist;]
- 18 [(26)] (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
19 President of the Senate;
- 20 [(27)] (2) one member of the House of Delegates of Maryland, appointed by
21 the Speaker of the House;
- 22 (3) **THE STATE CHIEF DATA OFFICER;**
- 23 [(28)] (4) [five] **THREE** elected officials or employees from local entities
24 who have knowledge of and interest in open data, appointed by the Governor in accordance
25 with subsections (d) and (e) of this section; and

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1 [(29)] (5) five members from the private, private utility, academic, or
 2 nonprofit sectors who have knowledge of and interest in open data, appointed by the
 3 Governor in accordance with subsection (e) of this section THAT INCLUDES:

4 (I) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER FROM THE UNIVERSITY SECTOR;

5 (II) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR; AND

6 (III) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER FROM THE NONPROFIT SECTOR.

7 (c) If a member of the Council [listed in subsection (b)(1) through (24) of this
 8 section] is unable to attend a meeting of the Council, the member may:

9 (1) IF THE MEMBER IS LISTED IN SUBSECTION (B)(1) OR (2) OF THIS
 10 SECTION, DESIGNATE A STAFF MEMBER WHO REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE MEMBER
 11 TO ATTEND THE MEETING; OR

12 (2) IF THE MEMBER IS LISTED IN SUBSECTION (B)(3) OF THIS
 13 SECTION, designate [the Chief Information Officer or] another senior management staff
 14 member of the agency or organization to attend the meeting.

15 (d) Of the [five] THREE elected officials or employees from local entities
 16 appointed by the Governor under subsection [(b)(28)] (B)(4) of this section, one shall
 17 represent each of the following groups of counties:

18 (1) Allegany County, CARROLL COUNTY, Frederick County, Garrett
 19 County, and Washington County;

20 [(2) Caroline County, Cecil County, Dorchester County, Kent County,
 21 Queen Anne's County, Somerset County, Talbot County, Wicomico County, and Worcester
 22 County;

23 (3)] (2) Anne Arundel County, BALTIMORE CITY, BALTIMORE
 24 COUNTY, Calvert County, Charles County, [and] HOWARD COUNTY, MONTGOMERY
 25 COUNTY, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, AND St. Mary's [County;

26 (4) Montgomery County and Prince George's] County; and

27 [(5)] (3) [Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County,] CAROLINE
 28 COUNTY, CECIL COUNTY, DORCHESTER COUNTY, Harford County, KENT COUNTY,
 29 QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, SOMERSET COUNTY, TALBOT COUNTY, WICOMICO
 30 COUNTY, and [Howard] WORCESTER County.

31 (e) (1) This subsection applies to members of the Council appointed under
 32 subsection [(b)(28)] (B)(4) and [(29)] (5) of this section.

1 (2) The term of a member is 4 years[, except that five members may serve
2 an initial 3–year term as required by the terms provided for staggered members of the
3 Council on July 1, 2014].

4 (3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is
5 appointed and qualifies.

6 (4) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the
7 rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

8 (5) A member may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

9 (6) The Governor may remove a member for neglect of duty, incompetence,
10 or misconduct.

11 (f) A member of the Council may not receive compensation but is entitled to
12 reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations as provided in
13 the State budget.

14 (g) [(1)] The [Secretary of Information Technology] **STATE CHIEF DATA**
15 **OFFICER** is the Chair of the Council.

16 [(2) The Director of the Governor’s Office of Performance Improvement is
17 the Vice Chair of the Council.]

18 (h) The staffing responsibilities of the Council shall be shared by the Department
19 of Information Technology[, the Governor’s Office of Performance Improvement,] and any
20 [other] staff designated by the Governor.

21 (i) The Council may establish workgroups as necessary to complete the duties of
22 the Council.

23 (j) The Council shall meet at least twice each year.

24 10–1504.

25 (a) The Council shall promote the policy established under § 10–1502 of this
26 subtitle by:

27 (1) providing guidance and policy recommendations and when appropriate
28 recommend legislation and regulations for:

29 (i) procedures, standards, and other deliverables for open data,
30 including for open data portals;

1 (ii) promotion, advertising, and marketing of open data; and

2 (iii) best practices for sharing open data while taking into account
3 privacy and security concerns;

4 **(2) ADVISING ON DATA INITIATIVES AND PRIORITIES;**

5 **(3) IDENTIFYING AND EXPLORING THE MEANS BY WHICH**
6 **PARTNERSHIPS MAY BE DEVELOPED AND STRENGTHENED TO CONNECT MARYLAND**
7 **DATA WITH COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS;**

8 **[(2)] (4)** coordinating the appropriate staff at each State entity for the
9 development, maintenance, and use of open data and open data portals;

10 **[(3)] (5)** (i) identifying the collective cost of operating and investing in
11 open data and funding mechanisms to support open data; and

12 (ii) advising the Governor and General Assembly on budget matters
13 related to open data;

14 **[(4)] (6)** inviting and encouraging local entities and the legislative and
15 judicial branches to:

16 (i) use open data portals established by State entities;

17 (ii) create their own open data portals; and

18 (iii) adopt policies consistent with the policy established under §
19 10–1502 of this subtitle;

20 **[(5)] (7)** establishing a plan for providing all open data to the public at no
21 cost;

22 **[(6)] (8)** advocating for sound records management and data preservation
23 practices; and

24 **[(7)] (9)** making recommendations to ensure that the purchase of new
25 data processing devices, systems, and software by the State includes a review of compliance
26 with the open data policy established under § 10–1502 of this subtitle and interoperability
27 with current technology used by the State.

28 (b) On or before January 10 of each year, the Council shall report to the Governor
29 and the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of this article, on the activities of
30 the Council for the previous year and any recommendations for legislation.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.