

HOUSE BILL 718

S1, P3, F2

6lr2510
CF 6lr2440

By: **Delegate Stewart**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Information Technology – State and Higher Education E-Mail – Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that certain provisions of law governing information
4 technology plans apply to certain public institutions of higher education; establishing
5 a certain policy of the State relating to State and higher education employee e-mail
6 systems; requiring certain policies, plans, and standards to include certain
7 provisions relating to e-mail security; and generally relating to State e-mail
8 systems.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – State Finance and Procurement
11 Section 3.5–302(c) and 3.5–305
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

17 3.5–302.

18 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in subsection
19 (a) of this section and §§ **3.5–305**, 3.5–307(a)(2), 3.5–308, and 3.5–309 of this subtitle, this
20 subtitle applies to all units of the Executive Branch of State government including public
21 institutions of higher education other than Morgan State University, the University
22 System of Maryland, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Baltimore City Community
23 College.

24 3.5–305.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
2 **INDICATED.**

3 **(2) (I) “SPAM E-MAIL” MEANS UNSOLICITED, PHISHING,**
4 **SOLICITATION, AND BULK E-MAILS UNRELATED TO STATE BUSINESS.**

5 **(II) “SPAM E-MAIL” DOES NOT INCLUDE SOLICITATION AND**
6 **BULK E-MAILS RELATING TO STATE BUSINESS, INCLUDING BULK E-MAIL FROM**
7 **STATE VENDORS, PARTNERS, AND EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVES.**

8 **(3) “STATE BUSINESS” MEANS THE FURTHERANCE OF THE STATE’S**
9 **OBLIGATIONS:**

10 **(I) UNDER THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION, MARYLAND CODE,**
11 **AND CODE OF MARYLAND REGULATIONS;**

12 **(II) UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES; AND**

13 **(III) BY OPERATION OF CONTRACTS AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS.**

14 **(B) IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE THAT E-MAIL SYSTEMS AND**
15 **RESOURCES FOR STATE AND HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYEES ARE INTENDED TO**
16 **SUPPORT STATE BUSINESS AND MAY NOT SERVE AS A PUBLIC FORUM.**

17 **[(a)] (C) Except as provided in subsection [(b)] (D) of this section, in accordance**
18 **with guidelines established by the Secretary, each unit of State government shall develop**
19 **and submit to the Secretary:**

20 **(1) information technology policies and standards;**

21 **(2) an information technology plan; and**

22 **(3) an annual project plan outlining the status of efforts to make**
23 **information and services available to the public over the Internet.**

24 **[(b)] (D) (1) The governing boards of the public institutions of higher**
25 **education shall develop and submit information technology policies and standards and an**
26 **information technology plan for their respective institutions or systems to the Secretary.**

27 **(2) If the Secretary finds that the submissions required under this**
28 **subsection are consistent with the master plan, the Secretary shall incorporate those**
29 **submissions into the master plan.**

3 (i) the Secretary shall return the submissions to the governing
4 boards; and

7 (E) (1) IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
8 RESOURCES OF THE STATE, THE POLICIES, PLANS, AND STANDARDS REQUIRED
9 UNDER SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (D) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE PROVISIONS TO
10 PROTECT STATE AND HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYEE E-MAIL SERVICES FROM
11 SPAM E-MAIL AND OTHER USE THAT DOES NOT SUPPORT STATE BUSINESS,
12 INCLUDING BY IMPLEMENTING SYSTEMS THAT AUTOMATICALLY FILTER SPAM
13 E-MAIL FROM STATE AND HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYEES' E-MAIL ACCOUNTS.

(I) HAS A DE MINIMIS IMPACT ON RESOURCES; AND

19 (II) IS CONSISTENT WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED
20 PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS.

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