



Larry Hogan
Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor
Gregory Slater
Secretary

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 857 – Facial Recognition Services – Moratorium

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 857 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Bill 857 places a moratorium on the use of facial recognition technology in the State for one year. The prohibition on this technology inhibits the MDOT Maryland Aviation Administration (MDOT MAA) from implementing critical security programs that require facial recognition technology.

Twenty-six of the nation's largest commercial airports have implemented the Biometric Exit technology. MDOT MAA staff have developed the scope of work and identified system requirements which comply with the federal Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act. Incorporating this new technology into the existing travel process will allow MDOT MAA and DHS to enhance security, facilitate lawful air travel, and protect traveler privacy.

MDOT MAA operates in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to ensure the safety and security of BWI Marshall. Recently, in partnership with DHS, MDOT MAA made a commitment to install Biometric Exit technology, a form of facial recognition technology, at BWI Marshall. This facial recognition technology, which is only used for arriving international passengers, is designed to streamline security by matching a photograph of the passenger with a picture that has been stored from a passport or other required travel documents. For those U.S. citizens that wish to opt out of the Biometric Exit, they may proceed through the manual document process when arriving from an international destination. The moratorium prescribed in Senate Bill 857 prevents MDOT MAA's ability to work with our federal partners to introduce this critical security technology.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 857.

Respectfully Submitted,

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