

Date: January 19, 2021

Bill: Senate Bill 345 State Government - Information Technology - Review of Projects and Proposals

Position: Support

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky:


The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) supports Senate Bill 345 State Government - Information Technology - Review of project and Proposals. The purpose of this bill is to increase the dollar value threshold from \$100,000 to \$200,000 that triggers the requirement to obtain Board of Public Works approval for Resource Sharing Agreements (RSA) and minimize the review of such agreements. This bill would also require agencies to notify the Secretary of any proposals regarding the sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of communications sites, facilities or frequencies.

Under the current law, State units must generally defer to DoIT's oversight and approval process when considering a RSA proposal to allow private industry to use a State resource such as a State right-of-way for an information technology purpose. The low threshold lengthens the review process which delays delivery of fiber optic infrastructure and services and more comprehensive cellular communications coverage, often disproportionately impacting citizens in rural Maryland.

Private industry fiber and cellular providers rely upon the speed to market. Consumers rely upon a competitive marketplace for essential cellular and internet access. Approval of SB 345 will hasten our ability to bolster expansion of this infrastructure and service while also reducing the common grievance from industry that speed to market in Maryland is an obstacle.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Information Technology respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 345.

Best,


Michael G. Leahy (Jan 15, 2021 12:47 EST)

Michael G. Leahy