



Senate Bill 811: State Government - Information Technology and Cybersecurity-Related Infrastructure (Modernize Maryland Act of 2022)

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

SUPPORT

March 1, 2022

Senator Guy Guzzone, *Chair*
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Committee Members:

On behalf of **GCOM Software, LLC**, I offer this testimony to **support** *Senate Bill 811: State Government - Information Technology and Cybersecurity-Related Infrastructure*, also known as “Modernize Maryland Act of 2022”.

GCOM supports the Modernize Maryland Act of 2022. GCOM has worked with the State of Maryland for over twenty years. Our employees live and work in Maryland, and we are deeply committed to the evolution of state systems.

In 2020, Maryland citizens and state employees immediately, like other states, required remote or virtual options to both work and do business. Legacy system modernization has become even more crucial to state government success. Modernization is no longer a mid-to-long range plan; improvements must be made in short order.

Due to increasingly scarce resources and soaring costs to maintain them, legacy systems no longer meet business needs. States are and must move away from data collection and reporting systems into customer-centric systems. Newer technology supports new ways to do business and deliver better outcomes for residents and government workers.

It is important to note that legacy technology systems are more vulnerable to cyber breaches and attacks. State agencies have limited options of integrating new cyber-security tools to legacy programming code, mainframe systems, and outdated hosting environments. Legacy systems also require expensive remediation to upgrade their outdated code to current standards. In many instances, it costs states more to update a legacy system than it would to plan and invest in modernization.

With this bill, Maryland can better protect its systems by upgrading to modern languages, tools, and technologies and apply state-of-the-art cybersecurity protections. Maryland can also use this modernization effort to enhance constituents’ experience with government. While modernizing legacy systems is never a small undertaking, the Modernize Maryland Act of 2022 will empower and support agencies on that journey.

For the reasons state above, we respectfully request this committee to support the passage of Senate 811 and issue a *favorable* report.



Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Amanda Tate'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Amanda Tate, PMP
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