March 14, 2023

The Honorable Delegate Ben Barnes
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
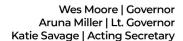
RE: House Bill 1132 - State Government - Technology and Science Advisory Commission - Established

Dear Chairmen Barnes and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill 1132 - State Government - Technology and Science Advisory Commission - Established. The bill requires DoIT to be a participant in and provide staff for the Technology and Science Advisory Commission. This commission's purpose is to study and make recommendations on technology and science for the state. DoIT believes that the goals of the commission are too broad and overlap with the goals of the Modernize Maryland Oversight Commission (MMOC) which was created last year by House Bill 1205. The MMOC's main goal is to advise the Secretary of Information Technology (IT) and the State Chief Information Security Officer (SCISO) on appropriate IT and cybersecurity investments and upgrades, funding sources, and future procurement mechanisms.

DoIT also believes that the topic of addressing the ethics of emerging and innovative technologies in science should be studied by a commission entirely by itself. There are a few topics that this commission is tasked with studying and making recommendations on that should be handled in separate commissions. These include:

1. Advising state agencies on technology and science and making recommendations on the proper use of developing technology and science with the State and how developments can be implemented by the state. (This is currently being done for state agencies by the Modernize Maryland Oversight Commission)
2. Review and make recommendations on algorithmic decision system policies, practices, and regulations employed by the state.
3. Creating a framework for addressing the ethics of emerging and innovative technologies in science.

4. Clarifying and practicing responsible artificial intelligence. (The MMOC is currently contemplating taking on this task)

In summary, DoIT believes that this commission would have numerous redundancies with other commissions that are currently doing good work for the state of Maryland and that the four issues above should be separated into different commissions and studied by entirely different sets of people who would have separate subject matter expertise.

If you would like to discuss this any further please contact Patrick Mulford, Chief of Staff at patrick.mulford@maryland.gov or 410-582-6272.

Sincerely,

Patrick Mulford

Chief of Staff
Department of Information Technology