



March 14, 2023

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Appropriations Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 709, "21st Century Financial Systems Council - Establishment" FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Barnes and members of the Committee:

The Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA), founded in 1901, has nearly 8,000 members who work in public accounting, industry, government and education. Our members serve thousands of individual and business clients throughout the state.

MACPA is in favor of all efforts to improve the operations and efficiency of the state's financial systems. We support the Comptroller's initiative to establish the 21st Century Financial Systems Council. Modernization of the state's financial management information systems (FMIS) infrastructure is incredibly important to the continuity of operations for the state. Having the right FMIS in place will result in simplifying many of the overly complex and outdated accounting, purchasing, inventorying, and reporting processes currently in place. A modern FMIS provides access to data to evaluate spending, allows for more informed budget decisions and helps to clearly articulate future funding needs to lawmakers.

With guidance from the 21st Century Financial Systems Council, Maryland can procure a properly designed FMIS that will enhance financial policy compliance, transparency, management, execution, and long-term sustainment.

MACPA appreciates the opportunity to offer these comments, and we respectfully request a favorable report for HB 709.

Sincerely,

Rebekah J. Brown, CPA
Chief Executive Officer, MACPA