



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
Members, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Terri L. Hill

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
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DATE: March 16, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 1132 – *State Government – Technology and Science Advisory Commission – Established*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) **supports with amendment** *House Bill 1132: State Government – Technology and Science Advisory Commission – Established*. We are a community of over 700 Maryland member companies that span the full range of the technology sector. Our vision is to propel Maryland to become the number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology in the nation. We bring our members together and build Maryland's innovation economy through advocacy, networking, and education.

House Bill 1132 establishes the Technology and Science Advisory Commission to study and make recommendations on technology and science in Maryland. Among other duties, the bill charges the Commission with making recommendations on the proper use of developing technology and science within the State and how developments can be implemented; reviewing and making recommendations on algorithmic decision system policies, and creating a framework for addressing the ethics of emerging and innovative technologies and science that will avoid system harm and bias. The bill also calls for the establishment of workgroups to study and make recommendations across various aspects of the continually evolving fields of science and technology. The bill, as drafted, appears to place a particular emphasis of ensuring Maryland is properly positioned with respect to the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence (AI).

The widespread adoption of AI is growing at a rapid pace across all types of industries, including healthcare, education, finance, transportation, manufacturing, and defense. The role these technologies play in our everyday lives is only going to continue to grow. Therefore, we believe it is right to bring together stakeholders to examine all of the implications and potential unintended consequences of this technology. MTC agrees that regulations and guardrails are going to be needed with respect to AI. However, such regulations need to balance the need for protecting

and safeguarding people, while ensuring we have an environment where companies continue to innovate and improve the quality of life through technology.

MTC is particularly supportive of the broadness of the mandate described in the bill. This is because there are many different emerging and emergent technologies that the State must consider and may eventually seek to regulate. We are supportive of creating a standing body that can provide objective advice and analysis of these emerging technologies to State policy makers.

We do respectfully request one amendment to slightly broaden the membership of the Commission. As the State's largest association of technology companies, we believe our organization lends an important voice to these discussions, and therefore request an amendment to read, **“ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL, DESIGNATED BY THE MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL.”**

With our suggested amendment, we urge a favorable report.