

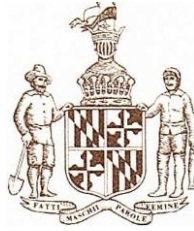
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Howard County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees
Government Operations and
Health Facilities

Public Health and Minority
Health Disparities



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 16, 2023

HB1132 State Government - Technology and Science Advisory Commission - Established

Chairman Barnes, Vice-chair Chang, and Committee Members,

HB1132 would establish the Technology and Science Advisory Commission to study advancing technology and make recommendations on the applications of technology and science in and by the state. The goal is to lessen Maryland's future need to react to, and remedy, unintended consequences of policies, systems, and actions which, in retrospect, were ill advised or inadequately informed. The analyses and recommendations the Commission will support more deliberate implementation and administration of procedures, particularly where algorithmic design is used in designing programs, procuring operational tools, and conducting policy.

There are obvious application benefits to having such a resource available - a think tank, of sorts, drawn from tech and science experts from academia, private, and public sectors, across broad areas of expertise, who are not only engaging in the latest science and technology but also in developing it.

As important as it is that Maryland be timely in adaptation of emerging technologies and avoid allowing antiquated systems to undermine efficiencies and effectiveness, it is equally important that we are alert to the dangers of too rapid adaptation and understand the emerging risk associated with specific innovations. The Commission would facilitate the studying of rapidly evolving technologies and how we can apply it more responsibly, and help ensure adequate and appropriately updated oversight, monitoring, and security are also in place. This is especially important with the increased use of automated systems and artificial intelligence. Innovators are not known for prioritizing sussing out potentially harmful effects of their products. They're focused on the potential benefits. We, on the other hand, cannot afford to be so starry-eyed; our responsibilities are greater and there is much on the line.

I am pleased to see state agencies recognizing the growing impacts of this type of technology and science and the importance of being more forward looking in our use. I view the request from Maryland's Office of the Public Defender, that they, as well as the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Department of Juvenile Services, and the Attorney General, be given Commission representation.

On issues as divergent as an inmates' likelihood to reoffend if paroled, to which job candidate should be offered a position, to the appropriateness of the use of facial recognition systems in policing and law enforcement, to the determination of which patients will be offered a particular procedure or therapy, decisions are being made every day in which historic prejudices belie our best efforts to correct the harms of our past. We can either do better or continue expending energy and resources to either mitigate or undo damage from biases inadvertently baked into our operations that target, disqualify, or handicap individuals based both on articulated and unspoken presumptions and on the reinforcement of traditionally unquestioned assumptions. **HB1132** is a good start to doing better. I urge a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri L. Hill".

