



March 9, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 659, "*21st Century Financial Systems Council - Establishment*" FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Guzzone and members of the Committee:

The Maryland Association of CPAs (MACPA) is a professional organization representing the CPA profession in Maryland, with more than 8,000 members statewide, and a history of serving the public interest since 1901. Our members provide services to individuals, not-for-profit organizations, small and medium-sized businesses, as well as Maryland's largest businesses.

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 Having the right FMIS in place will result in simplifying many of the overly complex and outdated accounting, purchasing, inventorying, and reporting processes currently in place.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 SB 659.

Sincerely,

Rebekah J. Brown, CPA
Chief Executive Officer, MACPA