

TERRI L. HILL, M.D.

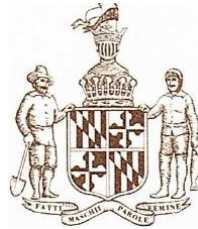
Legislative District 12A

Howard County

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and
Health Facilities
Public Health and Minority
Health Disparities



**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF
DELEGATES**

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**The Maryland House of
Delegates**

Annapolis Office

6 Bladen Street, Room 404
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-841-3378 | 301-858-3378
800-492-7122 Ext. 3378

Fax 410-841-3197 | 301-858-3197
Terri.Hill@house.state.md

March 28, 2024

SUPPORT

HB999 - Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

HB999 establishes the Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network. This initiative is vital to address the increasing need for a cohesive strategy to utilize science and technology advancements for the benefit of Maryland residents. It's an imperative, bipartisan bill that passed the house with zero opposition (**136 - 0**).

As we confront complex challenges across various sectors, such as healthcare, the environment, transportation, and agriculture, harnessing science and technology to inform our policies and practices is crucial. However, the fragmented nature of expertise and resources often limits our ability to leverage these advancements fully. With its ever-changing landscape and the emergence of tools like artificial intelligence, the tech industry underscores the necessity for legislators to have access to consistent and reliable information from a diverse group of experts.

HB999 establishes a workgroup to:

- (1) Identify and analyze options for creating and maintaining a network of experts in science, technology, and industry to:
 - Foster collaboration with the State and facilitate the exchange of state-of-the-art data and information.
 - Promote solution development and decision-making based on sound science, innovation, and best practices.
- (2) Evaluate methods for establishing a digital-virtual referral network and registry of experts, which will expand upon existing entities and be made available to the public.
- (3) Examine the costs associated with developing and maintaining such a network.
- (4) Provide recommendations for a science and technology best practices and innovation network, delivering their findings and suggestions to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2024.

The workgroup will comprise a diverse array of experts, including members appointed by the Speaker of the House, representatives from the private and nonprofit sectors advocating for ethical practices, as well as individuals with expertise in science, technology, and innovation from various educational institutions across the State. This composition ensures representation from historically Black colleges or universities, independent institutions of higher education, and community colleges. The group will be provided with staff and housed by the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

I urge a favorable report on HB999.

[Handwritten signature]