



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Katie Savage | Secretary

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Department of Information Technology
RE: Senate Bill 1087 - Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission
DATE: February 22, 2024
POSITION: Oppose

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman,

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) opposes Senate Bill 1087 - Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission, which seeks to establish the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission. While DoIT acknowledges the importance of promoting the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) in our state, and the utility of an advisory group made up of experts and key stakeholders to advise the state on direction, we believe that the creation of this commission duplicates efforts already undertaken by existing initiatives and presents logistical challenges that outweigh its potential benefits.

Specifically, we want to highlight the recent establishment of an AI subcabinet by Maryland Governor Wes Moore through an executive order. This subcabinet, which first convened in February 2024, shares similar duties and objectives as those outlined for the proposed Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission. Given this overlap in responsibilities, we see the creation of a separate commission as redundant and unnecessary.

DoIT also believes that the membership composition of this commission has left out multiple groups who should be involved in oversight and advising state government. Key groups who have been omitted from membership in this group include, academia, civil society and a presence from the executive branch who will have to implement recommendations from this commission.

Furthermore, DoIT has concerns regarding the staffing of the commission by the Department of Information Technology (DoIT). The composition of the commission primarily comprises members from the Senate, House of Delegates, private AI sector, and State Board of Education.



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Given this focus, it seems more appropriate for the staffing to be handled by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) rather than DoIT. DLS has the expertise and resources to provide impartial support to legislative initiatives, ensuring a more balanced and effective operation of the commission.

In light of these considerations, we strongly urge the bill sponsor to reconsider the need for Senate Bill 1087 and explore alternative avenues for advancing the goals of responsible AI development and oversight in Maryland. Rather than creating a new commission, we should focus on leveraging existing structures and collaborations to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in this critical area.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Information Technology respectfully requests a un-favorable report on Senate Bill 1087.

Best,

Katie Olson Savage
Secretary
Department of Information Technology