



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

TechNet Mid-Atlantic | Telephone 717.585.8622
www.technet.org | @TechNetMidAtla1

March 6, 2024

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

RE: SB 818 (Hester) - Information Technology - Artificial Intelligence - Policies and Procedures (Artificial Intelligence Governance Act of 2024).

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I'm writing to offer comments on SB 818 related to AI policies and procedures.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.2 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg, Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, and Washington, D.C.

Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and the algorithms that often support artificial intelligence have generated policymaker interest. We acknowledge that as technological advances emerge, policymakers' understanding of how these technologies work is vital for responsible policymaking. Our member companies are committed to responsible AI development and use.

The intent of SB 818 is laudable and TechNet thanks the sponsor for taking the lead on this important issue. TechNet is seeking further changes to the bill, which are outlined below.

3.5-802.

TechNet suggests the sponsor consider an inventory of AI systems characterized as high risk only to narrow the scope of the bill.

3.5-802. (5)

We suggest striking ~~being implemented~~ and replacing that phrase with "deployment".

3.5-803.

Throughout the bill, consider replacing the term "implementation" with "deployment".

3.5-803. (B) (2)

A question to consider here: is the intention to eliminate state agencies' use of any AI system which is deemed high-risk (even with proper impact assessments performed and human oversight)?

13-116. (A)

We suggest adding "demonstration" after "evaluation", as part of the "proof of concept". Regarding "a good or service", sometimes technology is defined separately so we are suggesting this definition include technology.

13-116. (C) (2) (II)

We suggest adding "and overall value" after "price".

Thank you for your consideration and please don't hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Margaret Durkin

Margaret Durkin
TechNet Executive Director, Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic