



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

**TO:** House Health and Government Operations Committee  
**FROM:** Department of Information Technology  
**RE:** House Bill 227 - State Government - Information Technology - Major Information Technology Development Projects  
**DATE:** January 23, 2024  
**POSITION:** Support

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The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk,

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) supports House Bill 227 - State Government - Information Technology - Major Information Technology Development Projects. DoIT proposes making changes to the law which defines the governance of major information technology development projects (MITDPs). The proposed changes are intended to enhance DoIT's ability to provide effective oversight and encourage the consistent use of IT best practices during MITDP planning and implementation. The proposed changes include:

1. DoIT proposes to expand the definition of "Information Technology" to include networking and applications.
2. DoIT proposes to more clearly define the criteria which will be used by the Secretary in determining whether or not to designate a project as an MITDP.
3. DoIT proposes to provide the Secretary adequate discretion in making MITDP determinations.
4. DoIT proposes to require a unit of state government to provide information to the Secretary which confirms that a project meets the MITDP criteria.
5. DoIT proposes to define oversight as it pertains to MITDPs.
6. DoIT proposes to enhance the Secretary's ability to monitor and control major information technology development project fund (MITDPF) expenditures in order to increase compliance with statewide plans, policies and standards.
7. DoIT proposes to add additional requirements for the Systems Development Life Cycle Plan.



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The expansion of the "Information Technology" definition, coupled with the clear definition of MITDP criteria and the discretion afforded to the Secretary, ensures that the State's resources are managed efficiently. Without sufficient legislative support, projects may lack adequate planning, potentially diminishing their value to Maryland citizens.

The proposed oversight enhancements and strengthened control over MITDPF expenditures aim to align project spending with approved baselines, addressing findings from the Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA). Legislative backing is essential to compel agencies to adhere to MITDP policy, meeting OLA expectations and avoiding project cost overruns and delays.

In summary, effective oversight is crucial for successful MITDP project implementation. The legislative changes proposed in HB 227 provide DoIT with the necessary support to enforce established processes and policies, addressing challenges associated with cost overruns, schedule delays, and limited project visibility. While legislation complements effective agency project management, it serves as a vital tool to reinforce DoIT's mandate as the State's MITDP oversight agency.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Information Technology respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 227.

Best,

Katie Olson Savage  
Secretary  
Department of Information Technology