

and ethical use of AI systems. Currently, MSDE and LEAs have no AI-experienced resources, and hiring an AI subject matter expert (SME) is expensive due to scarcity in the market for this burgeoning field of technology. There are LEAs that do not have funding for teams dedicated to cybersecurity and data privacy, so adding AI designees will further strain limited resources. This may affect the submission of the annual inventory of systems that employ AI, as well as the required associated impact assessments.

While MSDE generally supports pilot programs exploring the ethical use of AI, the Department has concerns about implementing and promoting best practices and procedures for emerging technologies to other units of state government as well as the private sector. MSDE does not currently have the personnel, knowledge base, or infrastructure to install, direct, and manage a pilot program for AI at the state level. As a result, the Department anticipates the need to hire one Educational Technology AI Specialist and two Educational Technology Specialists to implement the directives outlined in the bill. Significant participation and support from DoIT will be necessary to execute the Bill's requirements on a State-wide scale, given their expertise, authority, infrastructure, and ability to guide state agencies and private sector enterprises on emerging technologies in accordance with policies to be set by the IT Security Manual and the State guidelines.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB 1297**. For further information, please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne at 410-767-0504, or Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov.