



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 807- Information Technology - Modernizing Data Governance - Office of Enterprise Data and Council for Open Data Advancement
DATE: March 4, 2025
POSITION: Support

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 807- Information Technology - Modernizing Data Governance - Office of Enterprise Data and Council for Open Data Advancement. This bill seeks to modernize the state's data governance framework through the establishment of a State Chief Data Officer, the codification of the Office of Enterprise Data, and the restructuring of the Council for Open Data Advancement. This legislation represents a crucial step toward enhancing data integrity, security, and accessibility across state agencies, ensuring that Maryland can leverage data as a strategic asset to improve government operations and service delivery.

House Bill 807 formally establishes the State Chief Data Officer, appointed by the Governor and supervised by the Secretary of Information Technology, to lead efforts in statewide data governance, compliance, and interagency collaboration. Additionally, the bill requires each state agency to designate an Agency Data Officer (ADO), reinforcing accountability for data management, privacy, and responsible use, while minimizing the collection of personally identifiable information. DoIT will work with smaller agencies who may not have enough employees to designate one as an ADO to ensure they have the expertise needed in this space.

The bill also codifies the Office of Enterprise Data within DoIT to oversee key programs in data governance, data sharing, and data literacy. This office will be responsible for developing statewide policies and standards, establishing secure data-sharing frameworks that protect privacy while improving accessibility, and launching a data literacy initiative to train state



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employees on effective data management and analysis. These initiatives will ensure that Maryland state agencies can securely and efficiently utilize data to drive evidence-based decision-making and public service improvements.

Furthermore, House Bill 807 modernizes and strengthens the Council on Open Data, renaming it the Council for Open Data Advancement and redefining its mission to focus on data-driven decision-making, strategic partnerships, and budgetary recommendations. By placing the State Chief Data Officer as Chair, the Council will be well-positioned to guide Maryland's data initiatives, fostering collaboration among agencies and external stakeholders while streamlining operations for maximum efficiency.

House Bill 807 is a proactive and necessary step in ensuring that Maryland's data infrastructure is modern, secure, and optimized for collaboration. By establishing clear roles, governance structures, and policies, this legislation will enhance government transparency, accountability, and efficiency, ultimately improving outcomes for Maryland's residents. DoIT strongly supports House Bill 807 and urges the committee to issue a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Melissa Leaman
Acting Secretary
Department of Information Technology