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State Superintendent of Schools  
Joshua L. Michael, Ph.D.  
President, State Board of Education

TO: House Committee on Health and Government Operations

BILL: House Bill (HB) 0807 - Information Technology - Modernizing Data Governance - Office of Enterprise Data and Council for Open Data Advancement

DATE: March 04, 2025

POSITION: Support

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The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the State Board of Education support House Bill (HB) 0807 - Information Technology - Modernizing Data Governance - Office of Enterprise Data and Council for Open Data Advancement, which establishes the responsibilities of the State Chief Data Officer and creates the Office of Enterprise Data.

MSDE recognizes the critical importance of effective data governance and the need to establish standardized practices across state agencies. Robust data governance is essential to our educational mission for several key reasons:

- It ensures data integrity and quality, which is fundamental for accurate educational reporting and informed decision-making
- It strengthens student data privacy protections, a critical concern for families and educators
- It enables more efficient sharing of appropriate information between agencies, improving coordinated services for students
- It reduces redundancies in data collection and management, creating operational efficiencies
- It improves transparency and accountability in our educational systems

We appreciate that HB 0807 creates a comprehensive framework for data management, including:

- Establishing statewide data strategy and policies
- Providing oversight for data use, management, and sharing between agencies
- Developing processes for AI readiness
- Managing a secure data exchange platform
- Implementing data literacy programs for state employees

MSDE believes this direction is highly valuable for all stakeholders and aligns with our commitment to maintaining accurate, reliable, and accessible data while ensuring proper data privacy safeguards. Proper data governance will enhance our ability to make evidence-based decisions, improve educational outcomes, and maintain public trust in our data systems.

However, MSDE respectfully requests additional fiscal resources to ensure successful implementation of HB 0807:

1. Provide funding for three full-time positions: one Grade 24 Agency Data Officer (ADO) and two Grade 22 Data Governance Specialists. These positions are essential because:

- The Agency Data Officer will be responsible for developing comprehensive data governance policies aligned with the State Chief Data Officer's directives, overseeing data quality initiatives, and building a robust data governance and risk management program. This specialized expertise is not currently available within our existing staff structure.
- The Data Governance Specialists will conduct the critical work of mapping MSDE's complex data landscape, applying new data classification schemes across MSDE and shared LEA systems, establishing metadata policies for departmental retention schedules, and training staff on proper data management protocols.
- Without dedicated staff focused on these initiatives, MSDE risks compliance issues and an inability to fully implement the data governance measures required by this legislation.

2. Provide additional resources to support Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in implementing the mandated data governance measures. This support is crucial because:

- LEAs vary significantly in their current data management capabilities and staffing levels
- Many smaller LEAs lack specialized data personnel and would face substantial challenges in meeting new requirements and adopting policies consistent with the state's open data guidelines.
- A consistent, statewide approach to implementation will require coordinated training and technical assistance

With these resources, MSDE and the State Board support HB 0807 and looks forward to working with the sponsor, legislative committees, and other stakeholders to implement this important initiative that will strengthen data governance across state agencies and improve data management practices.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB807**. For further information, please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne (Executive Director of Government Affairs) at 410-767-0504, or [Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov](mailto:Akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov).