

JON S. CARDIN
Legislative District 11
Baltimore County

Judiciary Committee

Chair
Civil Law and Procedure
Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 217
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3054 • 301-858-3054
800-492-7122 Ext. 3054
Fax: 410-841-3385 • 301-858-3385
Jon.Cardin@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 966

Courts - Artificial Intelligence Evidence Clinic Pilot Program - Establishment

SUPPORT

HB 966 establishes an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Evidence Clinic to support Maryland judges by providing expert analysis on whether electronic evidence has been altered by AI.

The advancement of generative AI has unlocked new possibilities in technology, but it also presents significant challenges. The use of AI to enhance, alter, or fabricate information poses a serious risk, particularly in the courtroom, where truth and accuracy are paramount. For example, jurors can be heavily influenced by the evidence they see, even if it is later discredited, underscoring the need for reliable authentication. Furthermore, securing expert testimony to verify disputed evidence can drive up litigation costs, further widening the gap in access to justice.

Maryland has long benefited from impactful law clinics, with clinics across the state providing critical legal support to those in need. Building on this model, we are creating a similar initiative for computer science programs, allowing them to leverage their AI expertise to support the courts and expand access to expert testimony.

In collaboration with Chief Justice Fader and Senator Hester, we have worked to ensure this program effectively meets the needs of the judiciary and the communities it serves. In fact, Senator Hester and I have submitted an amendment, attached for your ready reference, that refines the selection process by requiring a competitive selection of a higher education institution rather than issuing a request to an unspecified entity.

Our amendment replaces “request for proposals” with “scope of work,” shifting the focus from open bidding to predefined tasks. Additionally, changing “shall” to “may” makes certain program requirements optional rather than mandatory, providing greater flexibility in implementation. Lastly, HB 966 and SB 655 ensure that our courts are prepared to meet the rising challenges presented by the growth of AI and deepfake technology and continue to enforce justice fairly.