



Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

April 7, 2026

House Bill 531 – *State Department of Education –
Public Schools STEM and Robotics Program – Study*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC), with over 800 members, is the State's largest association of technology companies. Our vision is to propel Maryland to be the country's number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology. MTC brings the State's life sciences and technology communities into a single, united organization that empowers members to achieve their goals through advocacy, networking, and education. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 531.

House Bill 531 creates a study to evaluate how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and robotics programs can be expanded and strengthened across the State's public schools. Expanding access to these programs will enhance STEM education pathways and better align classroom learning with the skills required in today's technologically driven economy. Competitive robotics and related programs provide hands-on experiences that develop critical competencies in engineering, coding, and collaborative problem-solving. Early exposure to these disciplines can meaningfully increase student interest in pursuing post-secondary education and careers in technical fields, reinforcing Maryland's STEM talent pipeline into the workforce. By studying robotics programs and competitive STEM structures, House Bill 531 helps identify ways to produce future engineers, developers, and tech-savvy graduates.

The study established by House Bill 531 promotes statewide consistency and encourages equitable access to high-quality STEM programming. This method ensures that future policy decisions are informed by data and best practices, and reflects sound stewardship and thoughtful planning for young, motivated students in Maryland's public school system. For these reasons, MTC requests a favorable report on House Bill 531.

For more information call:

Andrew G. Vetter
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000