



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Katie Savage | Secretary

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Department of Information Technology
RE: Senate Bill 121 - Personal Information - Public Servant Protections
DATE: February 12, 2026
POSITION: Letter of Information

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman,

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) submits this letter of information on Senate Bill 121, Personal Information - Public Servant Protections. The bill creates a process for certain public servants and their families to have personal information removed from public websites and records. It requires state and local agencies to respond within specific deadlines, protects real-property records, creates penalties for improper disclosure, and sets up an Address Confidentiality Program managed by the Secretary of State.

The bill is described as being based on Maryland's Wilkinson Act from 2023. However, the process in SB 121 is very different from how the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) actually runs the Wilkinson program today.

Under the Wilkinson model, the Office of Information Privacy (OIP) at the AOC handles the work in one central place. That office receives requests, checks whether a person qualifies, contacts agencies and private companies, and coordinates removals using one standard process. Individual state agencies do not have to build their own systems to take in requests, verify information, track cases, and meet tight deadlines. This centralized approach has kept the program consistent and manageable.

SB 121 would take the opposite approach. As written, every state and local agency would have to:

- accept requests directly from individuals,
- confirm whether the person is protected,
- find every place the information appears, and



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Katie Savage | Secretary

- remove it within 72 hours.

This would place a major burden on agencies. It would also create new legal risks and would likely lead to different decisions from one agency to another.

DoIT has several specific concerns with the bill:

- The 72-hour deadline is not realistic for older computer systems, archived records, and public documents that cannot be changed quickly.
- The bill uses terms for personal information that do not match current Maryland laws, which could cause confusion.
- Agencies would be required to verify a person's protected status without access to a central list or registry.
- The bill may conflict with public records laws and election laws that require certain information to remain available.
- Agency staff could face lawsuits, damages, or even criminal penalties while trying to follow unclear requirements.
- Every agency would need to build its own tracking system, which would be costly and duplicative.
- The bill does not clearly explain how to handle requests from private companies versus government offices.

DoIT supports the goal of protecting people's safety and privacy. We are sharing this information to explain the practical challenges the bill would create and to encourage a centralized, uniform approach similar to the existing Wilkinson process.

Thank you for your consideration. DoIT is happy to provide any additional information the Committee may need.

Best,

Katie Savage
Secretary
Department of Information Technology