



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 597 - Higher Education - Maryland Artificial Intelligence Partnership
DATE: March 11, 2026
POSITION: Letter of Concern

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 Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT) respectfully submits this letter of concern regarding Senate Bill 597 - Higher Education - Maryland Artificial Intelligence Partnership.

While DoIT supports the State's continued exploration of artificial intelligence and values collaboration with Maryland's higher education institutions, several provisions in SB 597 raise operational, fiscal, and governance concerns that warrant further consideration.

First, on page 5 of the bill, SB 597 states that "the Partnership shall develop a strategic plan," but the legislation does not clearly specify which entity would be responsible for developing the plan or maintaining its required annual updates. Without clear accountability, the implementation and ongoing maintenance of the strategic plan may create ambiguity among participating entities.

Second, the work outlined in the bill would likely require multiple State agencies to invest in additional personnel identification numbers (PINs) to hire staff capable of executing the bill's requirements. This carries both fiscal and operational implications that are not fully addressed in the current language of the bill.

In addition, page 6 establishes an Artificial Intelligence Incubation Lab at the University of Maryland intended to serve State agencies. DoIT is concerned that this structure may duplicate existing efforts already underway within State government. The Department recently established an Office of Enterprise Architecture and the AI Innovation Lab, which is designed to support agencies in exploring and responsibly adopting AI technologies. We understand the proposed Lab is also exploring partnerships with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County to provide AI red-team services for agencies using its platforms. At this time, DoIT does not believe it is



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necessary to codify these services in statute given the existing capabilities and partnerships already being developed.

DoIT currently maintains in-house AI subject matter experts who support agencies through regular office hours, an AI community of practice, and other advisory resources that help agencies define AI use cases and identify appropriate solutions. These services address many of the functions described in the bill.

The Department also has questions regarding the rationale for providing awards over a six-year period as outlined on page 9, including how these awards would be funded throughout that duration.

More broadly, SB 597 may create significant overlap with services that are already in place within State government. Rather than accelerating AI adoption, the proposed structure may unintentionally introduce fragmentation and slow the responsible and coordinated implementation of artificial intelligence across State agencies.

For these reasons, the Department respectfully raises these concerns for the Committee's consideration and welcomes the opportunity to continue working with the General Assembly on approaches that strengthen Maryland's AI ecosystem while ensuring coordination with existing State initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Katie Savage
Secretary
Department of Information Technology