

Determination: Favorable with Amendments

After weighing House Bill 1057 against my record of municipal leadership, transparency advocacy, veteran service, and sustained community engagement, the strongest and most defensible position is Favorable with Amendments.

Why

As a municipal elected official serving residents, families, and students within Prince Georges County, I have consistently supported responsible innovation that strengthens education while protecting equity, accountability, and public trust. Artificial intelligence is already influencing how students learn, how educators prepare instruction, and how school systems manage administrative responsibilities. Establishing statewide guidance is necessary to prevent inconsistent implementation and unintended harm.

House Bill 1057 appropriately centers safe, responsible, equitable, and ethical use of artificial intelligence and recognizes that educators and students must remain at the center of instructional decision making. The requirement for annual review of guidance, professional development for educators, and coordination with workforce preparation standards aligns with the realities local governments and families are experiencing as technology evolves rapidly.

The creation of a statewide collaborative and the involvement of higher education institutions provide a structured pathway for oversight and evaluation. This framework reflects the type of coordinated governance that local jurisdictions rely upon when adopting emerging technologies that directly impact youth.

However, several areas require amendment to ensure successful implementation at the local level.

Recommended Amendments

First, implementation timelines should allow sufficient operational flexibility for local school systems that may lack staffing or technical infrastructure. A phased compliance approach would prevent unfunded administrative burdens.

Second, the bill should clarify funding mechanisms or state level support tied to coordinator designation and professional development expectations. Local jurisdictions should not be required to absorb new operational costs without identified resources.

Third, guidance should explicitly include protections addressing student data privacy, algorithmic bias, and transparency standards so parents and communities understand how artificial intelligence tools are evaluated and used.

Fourth, representation within the collaborative should include local government perspective or municipal education stakeholders, recognizing that municipalities frequently partner with schools on youth programs, workforce readiness, and community based initiatives.

Testimony

I respectfully support House Bill 1057 with amendments because it establishes a needed statewide structure while acknowledging that innovation must be implemented responsibly. In my experience working directly with families, youth initiatives, and community programs, technology adoption succeeds only when policy keeps pace with accountability and training.

Artificial intelligence literacy is becoming essential to workforce readiness. Students graduating from Maryland schools must understand how to use these tools responsibly, not simply consume them. The emphasis on professional development and evidence based implementation strengthens educator confidence and protects instructional quality.

Maryland has an opportunity to lead by creating clear expectations that balance innovation with safeguards. With targeted amendments that address funding clarity, implementation flexibility, privacy protections, and local coordination, this legislation will help prepare students for future careers while maintaining public trust.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a Favorable with Amendments report on House Bill 1057.