

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 235

(Chair, Finance Committee)(By Request - Departmental -
Information Technology)

Finance

Appropriations

Major Information Technology Development Project Fund – Use of Funds

This departmental bill expands the purpose of the Major Information Technology Development Project Fund (MITDPF) to require funding of the Statewide Public Safety Interoperability Radio System (commonly known as Maryland FiRST). The bill also requires (instead of authorizes) MITDPF to be used to support the State telecommunication and computer network (commonly known as the networkMaryland). The Secretary of Information Technology may allocate funds between the two programs. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill codifies and clarifies current practice and, therefore, does not affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: In order to centralize State oversight and funding for major Executive Branch information technology (IT) projects, Chapters 467 and 468 of 2002 established a review and approval process for major IT development projects and the

related MITDPF. The process and fund are both managed by DoIT. MITDPF is used to pay for major IT development projects in general funded agencies.

Among other sources of revenue, the fund consists of money received from IT agreements involving resource sharing, but certain government entities (including the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission, as well as the Legislative Branch and the Judiciary) are exempt from paying any money into the fund. Special funded agencies manage funding for their major IT projects, although their projects remain subject to the review, approval, and oversight of DoIT.

For a project to be eligible for funding through MITDPF, it must (1) be estimated to cost at least \$1.0 million; (2) support critical business functions associated with the public health, education, safety, or financial well-being of the citizens of Maryland; or (3) be determined to require special attention and consideration by the Secretary.

In addition to funding such projects, MITDPF funds *may* be used to support the State telecommunication and computer network

Background: DoIT advises that MITDPF monies are already being used to pay for costs associated with networkMaryland as authorized under current law and the Maryland FiRST public safety interoperability radio system. The bill, therefore, simply clarifies and codifies this current practice.

The [Maryland First Responder Radio System Team \(FiRST\)](#) is a Statewide Land Mobile Radio system with encryption capabilities for public safety. The One Maryland Broadband Network is a planned 1,294-mile fiber optic broadband network that will link 1,006 government facilities and community “anchor institutions” in every county in the State, while interconnecting and extending three independent networks: networkMaryland, the Inter-County Broadband Network (ICBN), and the Maryland Broadband Cooperative (MDBC).

The broadband network [networkMaryland](#) is used by many government agencies throughout the State, including the Legislative and Judicial branches of State government; the network is operated by DoIT. [ICBN](#) is a publicly run network that provides broadband services to businesses, community institutions, and residents in the cities of Annapolis and Baltimore and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties. [MDBC](#) is a publicly run network that provides broadband services to rural areas in the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Information Technology; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 17, 2021
rh/mcr Third Reader - February 11, 2021

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Major Information Technology Development Project Fund – Use of Funds

BILL NUMBER: SB 235

PREPARED BY: Patrick Mulford

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESSES

OR

WILL HAVE A MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND SMALL
BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

No Impact