

**HB1359\_SBPCComment\_03112022.pdf**

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Position: FAV



## Society for Biodiversity Preservation

*Conservation Custodians*

Washington, DC

<https://preservebio.org/>

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On behalf of the Society for Biodiversity Preservation (SBP) and our hundreds of supporters, we offer the following comments on **Maryland's Bill HB1359 -Establishing a Technology and Science Advisory Commission** to study and make recommendations on technology and science to the State Governor and the General Assembly.

The Society for Biodiversity Preservation is a Washington, DC- based non-profit organization (under IRC Sec. 501(c)(3)) founded by scientists and educators to protect Earth's natural capital through local biodiversity improvement projects and educational programs. We ensure citizen action and partnership with diverse stakeholders to reclaim and preserve local habitats and native ecosystems. To date we have awarded several financial grants to support science-based habitat improvement projects in Montgomery and PG Counties in Maryland as well as in DC. SBP strongly advocates for science-based policies and technologies to promote the strategic and sustainable use of Earth's natural resources.

Modern Technology provides us with tools to improve human health and welfare, to address issues that impact human survival, and to protect our built and natural environments. We rely on science to develop such technologies: to manufacture medicines, including the Covid-19 vaccines, to grow food to feed increasing populations, to resolve climate crisis, biodiversity crisis, and other issues facing us today. Science underlies all aspects of modern life its importance cannot be overemphasized.

Establishing a Technology and Science Advisory Commission is both essential and urgently needed to ensure that current science & best available technologies inform all aspects of decision making at all levels of the government. Through its annual reports, the Commission could guide decision making that is temporally efficient, financially optimal, and equitable to all. With the help of the Commission, Maryland can become the leader in the region for the delivery of huge substantial economic benefits at no additional cost.

We strongly support the Bill HB1359 to Establish a Technology and Science Advisory Commission.

Thank you for your serious consideration of these comments.

*Gurram Gopal*

Prof. Gurram Gopal, PhD, President

*Shyamala Rajan*

Shyamala S. Rajan, PhD, Grants Manager

**HB1359 Tech 2022 Sponsor Testimony final (tlh).pdf**

Uploaded by: Terri Hill

Position: FAV

**TERRI L. HILL, M.D.**  
*Legislative District 12*  
Baltimore and Howard Counties

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**HB1359**

**State Government - Technology and Science Advisory Commission - Established**

March 15, 2022

Chairman McIntosh, Vice-chair Chang, and House Appropriations Committee Colleagues,

**HB1359** would establish the Technology and Science Advisory Commission to study advancing technology and make recommendations on applications of technology and science in and by the state. The goal is to lessen Maryland's future need to react to, and remedy, unintended consequences of policies, systems, and actions which, in retrospect, were ill-advised or inadequately informed. The analyses and recommendations the Commission will support more deliberate implementation and administration of procedures, particularly where algorithmic design is used in designing programs, procuring operational tools, and carrying out policy.

There are obvious application benefits to having such a resource available - a think tank, of sorts, drawn from tech and science experts from academia, private, and public sectors, across broad areas of expertise, who are not only engaging in the latest science and technology but also, in some cases, developing it.

As important as it is that Maryland be timely in adaptation of emerging technologies and avoid allowing antiquated systems to undermine efficiencies and effectiveness, it is equally important that we are alert to the dangers of too rapid adaptation, understand the emerging risk associated with specific innovations, and that adequate and appropriately updated oversight, monitoring, and security are also in place. This is especially true with increased use of automated systems and artificial intelligence. Innovators are not known for prioritizing sussing out potentially harmful effects of their innovations. They're focused on the potential benefits. We, on the other hand, cannot afford to so starry-eyed; our responsibilities are greater and there are too much on the line.

In the last several years we've spent significant energy and resources identifying and trying to either mitigate or undo damage caused by biases baked into our operations, which inadvertently and unfairly target, disqualify, or handicap individuals based both on articulated and unspoken presumptions and on the reinforcement of traditionally unquestioned assumptions. On issues as divergent as an inmates' likelihood to reoffend if paroled, to which job candidate should be offered a position, to the appropriateness of the use of facial recognition systems in policing and law enforcement, to the determination of which patients will be offered a particular procedure or therapy, decisions are being made every day in which historic prejudices belie our best efforts to correct the harms of our past.

Recent revelations about how Facebook, as only one example, is actively harming users through its application of algorithms designed to maximize the bottom line, has re-awakened us to the dangers inherent in becoming too comfortable with being inattentive or unquestioning of the science itself. It is important that Maryland determine best to define and apply the principles of responsible AI, take a forward looking approach to incorporation of cutting-edge science and technology, and become more collaborative in how we approach both. **HB1359** is a good way to start and I urge a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Hill'.

# **HB1359 - 3.15.22 -- State Government - Technology**

Uploaded by: Donald Fry

Position: FWA



**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**HOUSE BILL 1359 – STATE GOVERNMENT - TECHNOLOGY AND  
SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMISSION – ESTABLISHED**

**Sponsor – Delegates Hill and Prettyman**

**March 15, 2022**

**DONALD C. FRY  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

**Position: Support with Amendments**

House Bill 1359 establishes the Technology and Science Advisory Commission to advise state agencies on technology and science developments, make recommendations on the proper use of developing technology and science within the state, and review and make recommendations on the use of technology and science advancements by state agencies. The bill also creates a framework for addressing the ethics of emerging and innovative technologies and science that will avoid systemic harm and prioritize equity, sustainability, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public resources. It requires the Governor to include an appropriation of \$100,000 in the annual budget bill.

It is imperative to position Maryland to compete in the global economy. In this digital age of fast moving developments in science and technology, establishing and maintaining a strong presence in these industries is a key for economic growth. Accomplishing this requires a strong partnership between the private and public sectors that protects consumers but does not handicap innovation. To balance these dual motives, government officials must stay well informed and up to date on the rapid advancements of technology and science.

Establishing the Technology and Science Advisory Commission will ensure that government agencies are not outpaced by technological advancements that they do not fully understand, which could lead to poor policy decisions that damage businesses and the public. Instead, under this bill government agencies can operate from an informed position and create policies that reflect the realities of the industry. A healthy partnership between the public and private sector is critical to unlocking the full economic potential of the Greater Baltimore region and the State of Maryland.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) respectfully requests an amendment to broaden the business representation on the Commission by including a representative of both the Greater Baltimore Committee and the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

House Bill 1359 with the proposed amendment is consistent with two key tenets in *Gaining a Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth:

**GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

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**Regulatory policies that are streamlined, stable and predictable.** Maryland must project to businesses within and outside the state that its government regulatory policies are reasonable, relevant, free of surprises or redundancy, and considerate of businesses' sense of urgency.

**Government leadership that unites with business as a partner.** Maryland leaders must set a welcoming tone that communicates positive support for business, respect for the private sector as a partner, not an adversary, and reflects a strategic plan for business growth and job creation.

**For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee respectfully requests the Committee give House Bill 1336 a favorable report, with the suggested amendment to Commission membership.**

*The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.*

**HB1359FacialRecognition:UNFAVORABLE:3:15.pdf**

Uploaded by: Linda Diefenbach

Position: UNF



HB1359 UNFAVORABLE!

No Facial Recognition technology EVER!

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