



POSITION STATEMENT

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:

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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.