

Chapter 448

(House Bill 999)

AN ACT concerning

Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network

FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network; and generally relating to the Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) There is a Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network.

(b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

~~(3) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;~~

~~(4) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;~~

~~(5) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;~~

~~(6) the Secretary of Energy, or the Secretary's designee;~~

~~(7) the Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;~~

~~(8) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;~~

~~(9) the Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission, or the Executive Director's designee;~~

~~(10)~~ (3) the Executive Director of the Maryland Technology Development Corporation, or the Executive Director's designee;

(4) one representative of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, designated by the President of the University;

(5) five representatives appointed by the Governor who:

(i) have expertise or experience in fostering community-based applications and using science or technology in teaching, mentoring, or hobbying; and

(ii) reflect the racial, ethnic, religious, gender, and geographic diversity of the State;

~~(11)~~ (6) five representatives of institutions of higher education in the State with expertise in current science or technology research, industry, or innovation, appointed by the Governor, including at least one representative each from:

(i) a historically Black college or university;

(ii) an independent institution of higher education; and

(iii) a community college;

~~(12)~~ (7) ~~three~~ two representatives from the private sector with expertise in current developments in science or technology research, industry, or innovation; and

~~(13)~~ (8) ~~three~~ two representatives from the nonprofit sector with expertise in or history of recognized advocacy on behalf of ethical and human practices and protections in science and technology research, industry, or innovation.

(c) The Workgroup shall elect a chair from among its members.

(d) The University of Maryland, Baltimore County shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

(e) A member of the Workgroup:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Workgroup shall:

(1) identify and analyze options for establishing and maintaining an open access science, technology, and innovation network ~~of~~ or hub of citizen scientists and experts in science, technology, and industry to:

(i) facilitate noninstitutional voluntary collaboration;

(ii) facilitate the open exchange of ideas and nonproprietary state-of-the-art and evidence-based data and information; and

~~(iii) inform State policy and practices; and~~

~~(iv)~~ (iii) promote solution development and decision making based on sound science, innovation, and best practices;

(2) identify and evaluate methods for:

(i) establishing a digital or virtual referral network of experts in science, technology, and industry, including expansion of existing entities and networks;

(ii) registering expert participants; and

(iii) making network expertise available to the public; and

~~(3) examine the costs of developing and maintaining a network of experts in science, technology, and industry; and~~

~~(4)~~ (3) make recommendations regarding the establishment of a science and technology best practices and innovation network.

(g) On or before December 1, 2024, the Workgroup shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.