

HOUSE BILL 966

D1

5lr3304
CF SB 655

By: **Delegate Cardin**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Artificial Intelligence Evidence Clinic Pilot Program – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing an Artificial Intelligence Evidence Clinic Pilot Program
4 within the Administrative Office of the Courts; requiring the Administrative Office
5 of the Courts to ~~issue a request for proposals to select an entity to conduct the~~
6 ~~Program and requiring the Administrative Office of the Courts to give preference to~~
7 ~~certain entities in the selection process~~ develop a grant application for the Program
8 and award grants to eligible institutions of higher education; authorizing the
9 Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation to the Program and
10 establishing a certain limitation on the expenditure of appropriated funds; and
11 generally relating to the Artificial Intelligence Evidence Clinic Pilot Program.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

14 Section 13–101.2

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

20 **13–101.2.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3.5-801 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

(3) "OFFICE" MEANS THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS.

(4) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EVIDENCE CLINIC PILOT PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EVIDENCE CLINIC PILOT PROGRAM IN THE OFFICE.

(C) (1) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE EXPERTISE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO THE CIRCUIT COURTS AND THE DISTRICT COURT IN THE FORM OF EXPERT TESTIMONY ON THE AUTHENTICITY OF ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE THAT A COURT DETERMINES MAY HAVE BEEN CREATED OR ALTERED USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(2) THE PROGRAM SHALL ENGAGE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, RECENT GRADUATES, AND FACULTY AND TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS DEDICATED TO THE RESEARCH AND ADVANCEMENT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ORDER TO DEVELOP EXPERT WITNESS RESOURCES FOR COURTS TO USE IN CASES IMPLICATING THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(3) THE PROGRAM SHALL PRIORITIZE CIVIL CASES IN WHICH ONE OR MORE PARTIES DO NOT HAVE LEGAL REPRESENTATION OR REASONABLE ACCESS TO EXPERT TESTIMONY.

~~(D) (1) THE OFFICE SHALL ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PROGRAM TO SELECT AN ENTITY TO MANAGE THE PROGRAM.~~

~~(2) AT A MINIMUM, THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SHALL:~~

~~(i) STATE WITH SPECIFICITY THE GOALS OF THE PROGRAM;~~
~~AND~~

~~(ii) STATE WITH SPECIFICITY THE OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE CRITERIA THAT WILL BE USED TO MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING AN ENTITY'S WILLINGNESS TO:~~

~~1. LIST THE CLINIC AS A FOR-CREDIT COURSE; AND~~

~~2. ENABLE CREDIT SHARING ACROSS INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.~~

~~(3) IN SELECTING AN ENTITY TO MANAGE THE PROGRAM, THE OFFICE SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO AN ENTITY THAT:~~

~~(i) IS A MARYLAND-BASED VENDOR;~~

~~(ii) HAS AN ACADEMIC FOCUS ON COMPUTER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND ADVANCEMENT;~~

~~(iii) HAS EXPERIENCE RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE; AND~~

~~(iv) WILL MAXIMIZE THE USE OF STATE FUNDS THROUGH THE USE OF MECHANISMS, INCLUDING PREEXISTING MATERIALS, FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS, AND RESOURCE MATCHING. IN ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM, THE OFFICE SHALL:~~

(1) DEVELOP A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE PROGRAM; AND

(2) AWARD GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(E) (1) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND 2028, THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 TO THE PROGRAM.

(2) NOT MORE THAN 20% OF THE MONEY APPROPRIATED TO THE PROGRAM MAY BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

(F) THE TERMS OF ~~THE AN~~ AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OFFICE AND ~~AN ENTITY SELECTED TO MANAGE THE PROGRAM SHALL~~ A GRANTEE MAY INCLUDE A CLAUSE THAT REQUIRES THE OFFICE TO HOLD HARMLESS THE ~~ENTITY SELECTED TO CONDUCT THE PROGRAM~~ GRANTEE AGAINST ANY CLAIM ALLEGING LIABILITY OR DAMAGES RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF EXPERTISE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AS PART OF THE PROGRAM, EXCEPT IN CASES OF WILLFUL OR WANTON MISCONDUCT, GROSS NEGLIGENCE, OR INTENTIONALLY TORTIOUS CONDUCT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.