

Maryland AI Workgroup – Meeting Minutes – July 23, 2026*

Key Takeaways

- The inaugural virtual kickoff meeting of the Maryland AI Workgroup was held on July 23, 2026, convened by the University of Maryland Center for Cyber, Health, and Hazard Strategies (CHHS) as the staffing entity.
- The workgroup currently has 20 members, with several appointments from the Speaker's office and Senate President still pending, including the designation of co-chairs.
- Bylaws were formally adopted by majority vote during the meeting.
- Members introduced themselves and represented a broad range of sectors including academia, technology, healthcare, real estate, civil rights, e-commerce, government, and small business.
- A wide range of AI policy topics were brainstormed for future discussion, including transparency, bias, workforce development, education, healthcare, supply chain security, and economic competitiveness.
- The workgroup's statutory mandate includes producing an annual report to the Maryland General Assembly, with the next report due July 1, 2027.
- An in-person meeting is being planned for September or early October 2026.
- The workgroup operates under House Bill 956 (2025) and is active until 2029.

Discussed Topics

1. Welcome Remarks and CHHS Introduction

Markus Rauschecker, Executive Director of CHHS, opened the meeting with welcoming remarks, explaining CHHS's role as the staffing entity and its 20-year history of building community resilience. Ben Yelin introduced himself as CHHS's lead program director and noted his background in AI law and policy.

- **Details**

- Markus Rauschecker: CHHS is an interdisciplinary university center partnering with government, health systems, educational institutions, and businesses to strengthen resilience against natural disasters, public health emergencies, and technological threats.
- Ben Yelin: CHHS will provide administrative, research, and organizational support; substantive direction will be driven by workgroup members.
- Quinn Laking was introduced as an additional CHHS team member supporting the workgroup.

- **Conclusion**

- CHHS is positioned as a support and facilitation entity, not a decision-making body.
- The workgroup's substantive work will be member-driven.

2. Member Introductions

Each workgroup member introduced themselves, sharing their professional background and designated role on the workgroup.

- **Details**

- David Douglas: Retired commercial real estate professional with approximately 50 years of experience; appointed by the Governor's office.
- Bo Yang: Professor of Computer Science at Bowie State University; education sector representative; AI/ML researcher with NASA and Air Force Research Lab funding.
- Cathy Bauer: Realtor since 2018; real estate community representative; former public sector experience in the Office of the Secretary of State.
- David Tohn: CEO of BTS Software Solutions (GovCon, intel/defense); Chair of TEDCO's Board of Directors; Chair of Maryland Technology Council Tech Board; representing Maryland Technology Council.
- Huang Heng: Professor of Computer Science at University of Maryland College Park; Director of the AI Center at the Institute for Health Computing (joint UMD/UMB); AI/ML researcher with NIH funding.

- Ivy Finkenstadt: Attorney at House of Ruth Maryland (legal services for intimate partner violence victims); representing civil rights organizations.
- Jillian Irvin: Over 8 years at Amazon, last 2 years focused on AI; representing the e-commerce sector.
- Delegate Lily Qi: Maryland State Delegate representing Montgomery County; Chair of Economic Development Subcommittee; champion for innovation industries and consumer protection legislation.
- Krysten B. Jenci: Government affairs team at Cisco; coordinates Cisco's participation in NIST AI Consortium; representing the technology/cybersecurity sector.
- Loralie Ma: Diagnostic radiologist at Advanced Radiology; past president of MedChi; healthcare sector representative.
- Matthew Kilbane: Legislative Director, Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce; IT and AI consultant; recently launched an advanced technology company in Maryland.
- Ming C. Lin: Distinguished University Professor, Computer Science, University of Maryland College Park; former department chair; researcher in AI, machine learning, computer vision, and robotics; Amazon Scholar affiliated with Amazon's frontier AI and robotics group.
- Raman Arora: Professor of Computer Science at Johns Hopkins University; research focus on machine learning foundations; academia representative.
- Roy Austin: Director of Howard University School of Law's AI Initiative; former VP of Civil Rights at Meta; academia representative.
- Gavin Stokes: Founder of the Auris Group, a small business based in Bowie, Maryland; AWS Fast Accelerator program participant; Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce member; small business perspective representative.

- **Conclusion**

- The workgroup reflects a diverse cross-section of expertise spanning academia, technology, healthcare, civil rights, government, e-commerce, and small business.

- Several members bring direct AI research, policy, and implementation experience.

3. Bylaws Adoption

Ben presented the bylaws, noting they were largely adapted from the Maryland Cybersecurity Council. He highlighted the provision regarding co-chairs, explaining that both the Senate President's and House Speaker's offices approved convening the workgroup in the absence of designated co-chairs.

- **Details**

- Ben: The bylaws allow for motions and majority-vote adoption; a specific provision authorizes organizational meetings without co-chairs.
- Loralie: Seconded the motion to adopt the bylaws.
- No objections were raised.

- **Conclusion**

- Bylaws were formally adopted by the workgroup.

4. Workgroup Status Update

Ben provided an update on the current composition and pending appointments.

- **Details**

- Ben: The workgroup currently has 20 members; 18 appointed by the Governor's office and 2 by the House Speaker's office. Several appointments, including co-chairs, remain pending from the Speaker's office and Senate President.
- CHHS is in contact with those offices and will keep members informed as appointments are made.

- **Conclusion**

- The workgroup is not yet at full strength; pending appointments are being actively pursued.

5. Member Directory and Communication

David raised the need for a member directory with contact information.

- **Details**

- David: Suggested a directory with telephone numbers and email addresses for all members.
- Ben: Confirmed that the Maryland Online Manual has a directory but without email addresses; offered to share email addresses with the group unless any member objects.
- Ben: Noted the CHHS AI Workgroup website as the central hub for meeting agendas, announcements, recordings, and minutes.

- **Conclusion**

- Ben will share member email addresses with the group, subject to any individual objections communicated privately.
- The CHHS website will serve as the primary information repository.

6. Statutory Authority Review (House Bill 956, 2025)

Ben reviewed the seven statutory focus areas designated for the workgroup under House Bill 956 (2025), noting the list is non-exhaustive.

- **Details**

1. Regulation of AI used in decisions significantly impacting individuals' livelihood and life opportunities.
2. Deployer and developer obligations related to labor, employment, and individual privacy rights.
3. Protection of consumer rights.
4. Current private sector use of AI.
5. General AI disclosures for all consumers.
6. Enforcement authority for the Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.
7. Impact of AI in the determination of government benefits.

- **Conclusion**

- The workgroup has broad latitude to address topics beyond the seven listed areas.
- These areas serve as a foundational framework for future discussions.

7. Brainstorming: Priority Topic Areas

Members engaged in an open brainstorming session on topics the workgroup should prioritize.

• Details

- Roy Austin: Recommended reviewing statutes from New York, Illinois, and Colorado; proposed focusing on transparency, discrimination, bias, and safety.
- Matthew Kilbane: Suggested exploring the justification for a Maryland sovereign large language model (LLM) accessible to Maryland citizens and businesses.
- Raman Arora: Raised the question of whether Maryland has GDPR/CCPA-equivalent data privacy protections; expressed interest in the right to be forgotten and machine unlearning.
 - Markus: Confirmed Maryland has the Maryland Online Data Privacy Act (MODPA), which took effect in October 2025 and is considered one of the strongest comprehensive data privacy laws in the country, including a data minimization requirement.
- Bo Yang: Highlighted concerns about AI use in college admissions screening, including fairness, student privacy, and potential bias.
- Loralie Ma: Emphasized the importance of ensuring AI regulations do not inadvertently restrict patient access to beneficial healthcare AI applications, such as AI-assisted stroke detection.
- David Tohn: Proposed examining supply chain security for AI training models and data provenance; also recommended differentiating regulatory requirements and liabilities for large versus small businesses in AI development and deployment.

- Krysten Jenci: Stressed the importance of learning from other states' experiences; advocated for balanced risk assessment across the AI value chain, particularly for cybersecurity applications.
- Gavin Stokes: Highlighted the need for Maryland to create a favorable environment for AI businesses and talent to compete with Virginia (National Landing/AWS corridor); suggested connecting AI development with Maryland's existing quantum computing investments around College Park.
- Gavin Stokes: Raised the importance of AI education frameworks for K-12 students, noting both beneficial use and misuse concerns.
- Bo Yang: Added that over-reliance on AI in education is reducing student creativity and independent thinking; emphasized responsible and smart AI use rather than outright bans.
- Krysten Jenci: Offered to share Cisco's research on AI and workforce development with the group.
- David Tohn: Suggested the workgroup understand its role within the broader state ecosystem, including existing tech hub initiatives seeking federal funding for AI workforce development, and establish a process for organizations to seek input from the workgroup.

- **Conclusion**

- Key topic clusters identified: transparency and bias, data privacy, healthcare AI, education and workforce, supply chain security, regulatory differentiation by business size, economic competitiveness, and government benefits.
- Subcommittees may be formed to address the variety of topics; members will be surveyed on their preferences.
- A state database of AI-related statutes compiled by CHHS was shared in the meeting chat and will be emailed to all members.

8. Workgroup Outputs and Annual Report

Markus asked Ben to clarify the expected outputs of the workgroup for Maryland policymakers.

- **Details**

- Ben: The statutorily mandated output is an annual report to the relevant Maryland General Assembly committees; the next report is due July 1, 2027.
- A prior report was submitted covering the basics of establishing the workgroup, available on the Maryland Manual Online.
- Additional outputs such as issue briefs, symposia, and public events are possible and not restricted by statute.
- **Conclusion**
 - The annual report is the primary statutory deliverable.
 - The workgroup has flexibility to produce additional outputs including written products and public events.

9. Branding, Public Presence, and Communications

Gavin raised the question of workgroup branding and social media presence.

- **Details**
 - Gavin Stokes: Suggested developing a logo and social media accounts to improve visibility and differentiation, particularly to compete with Virginia's AI ecosystem profile.
 - Ben: Expressed openness to the idea; noted current reliance on Maryland Manual Online and CHHS branding; suggested AI-generated branding as a possibility.
 - Roy Austin: Asked whether a public announcement had been made about the workgroup's launch beyond the website listing.
 - Ben: Confirmed that an announcement was published in the Maryland Register; no press releases have been issued; encouraged members with branding or communications expertise to share ideas with Quinn and Ben via email.
- **Conclusion**
 - Branding and social media strategy will be considered; members with relevant expertise are encouraged to contribute ideas.

- Public announcements for in-person events should be planned to maximize community engagement.

Challenges

- Co-chairs have not yet been designated by the Senate President and House Speaker; several workgroup appointments from those offices remain pending, leaving the workgroup below full strength.
- The workgroup is operating in a temporary organizational capacity without formally designated leadership.
- Geographic diversity of members presents logistical challenges for scheduling and hosting in-person meetings.
- Maryland faces competitive pressure from Virginia in attracting AI businesses and talent, particularly around the National Landing/AWS corridor.
- Balancing AI regulation to protect consumers and civil rights without inadvertently restricting beneficial AI applications, especially in healthcare.
- Addressing AI misuse in education while promoting responsible and creative use among students at all levels.

Action Items

- **Ben**
 - Send a follow-up email to all workgroup members within 24 hours summarizing the meeting and including all relevant links shared during the meeting (CHHS website, Maryland Manual Online, state AI statute database, bylaws).
 - Share member email addresses with the full workgroup, unless any member objects via private email.
 - Synthesize brainstormed topic areas into thematic clusters and circulate a vote or survey to gauge member interest in priority topics and subcommittee preferences.

- Begin coordinating scheduling for the first in-person meeting, targeting September or early October 2026, leveraging University of Maryland Baltimore space and considering Washington metro area locations.
- Post the recording of this meeting on the CHHS AI Workgroup webpage.
- Follow up with the Speaker's office and Senate President's office regarding pending appointments and co-chair designations.
- **All workgroup members**
 - Review the bylaws document and raise any objections or suggested amendments via email to Ben.
 - If interested, review the state AI statute database shared in the meeting chat.
 - Contact Ben or Quinn via email with any branding, communications, or social media ideas for the workgroup.
 - Notify Ben privately if they do not wish their email address to be shared with the group.

**Meetings minutes are partially generated by AI, but are always human-reviewed.*