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BILL NO.: **SB 69**

TITLE: Maryland Emergency Management Agency - Cybersecurity
 Coordination and Operations Office – Establishment

SPONSOR: Senator Hester

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 2, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 69 – Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) - Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office – Establishment. The legislation would establish a Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office within the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

When the Baltimore County Public School system suffered a ransomware attack, all of Baltimore County saw firsthand the devastation that can occur from vulnerabilities in cybersecurity. Swift action was required to get our students back in school, and it will take months of effort to fully recover our systems. Moving forward, it is essential that State and Local agencies undertake a coordinated effort to prevent and stem the effects of cybersecurity attacks in the future.

Senate Bill 69 would create a Cybersecurity Coordination and Operation Office within MEMA. This office would increase digital safety efforts by improving local, regional, and statewide cybersecurity readiness and response. They would also provide services to political subdivisions and school boards. This would help achieve cybersecurity best practices statewide. The office also would coordinate cybersecurity services throughout state agencies. This will keep the State’s digital information and technological services safe and secure from threat.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 69. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.