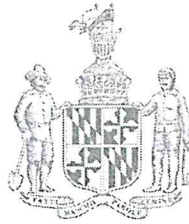


PAT YOUNG
Legislative District 44B
Baltimore County

Appropriations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 22, 2022

Chairwoman Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk & Members of the HGO Committee,

I present to you HB 1346 State Government - Cybersecurity - Coordination and Governance. Cybercrime is on the rise. In the wake of cyber-attacks across the country as well as here in Maryland we must be proactive and flexible in how we meet these threats.

During the interim the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology and Biotechnology (JCCITB) received presentations, reports, and testimony that included modernization strategies to enhance Maryland's cybersecurity posture. The Ad-hoc Committee on State and Local Cybersecurity of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council (MCC) submitted a report that contained analysis of local & state governments cybersecurity capabilities and needs as well as recommendations of how to modernize both. The joint committee was charged with producing legislation that would address the following:

1. Modernizing the State's infrastructure and legal framework for information technology.
2. Ensuring that State government has the capacity to implement and enforce cybersecurity policies, practices and strategic plans.
3. To the extent practicable, identifying policies that support cybersecurity best practices across all levels of government— state, local and municipal.

HB1346 and its companion legislation was crafted in direct relation to the work of the joint committee, the cybersecurity council, and the intent of the presiding officers. HB1346 will serve as the new framework of governance surrounding Maryland's readiness, response, and approach to cybersecurity. 30 states have moved to, or are in the process of moving toward, a centralized framework of governance that has been shown to cut overall costs, meet modern threats more effectively, and respond to cyber events more efficiently.

To be clear, HB1346 and its companion legislation represents a starting point not an end state. We have taken the recommendations and examples from other states as well as experts in the field to create a framework to be built on as threats change and our capabilities evolve. I look forward to the continued collaboration and conversation around how Maryland can better secure itself and our local partners. It is my hope that we will set ourselves apart and no longer be seen as a lucrative target for those that would seek to do us harm and disrupt the services Marylander have come to rely on. With that, I thank you for your time & consideration and urge a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Young".

Pat Young