

FAVORABLE

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
EDUCATION, ENERGY AND THE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 982
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – MODERNIZATION OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

TASHA CORNISH
CYBERSECURITY ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, INC.

POSITION: FAVORABLE

February 22, 2024

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 982.

The Cybersecurity Association of Maryland, Inc. (“CAMI”) supports SB 982. CAMI is a statewide, 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization established in 2015, created to drive the growth of Maryland's cybersecurity industry. Our membership includes over 600 firms ranging in size from Fortune 500 companies to solo owner operators and represents nearly 100,000 Maryland employees.

CAMI worked closely with the sponsor on the original Modernize Maryland legislation in 2022. Particularly, CAMI worked hard on the makeup and responsibilities of the Modernize Maryland Commission. The Commission is meant to serve as a board of directors for Maryland’s modernization, providing insights from both members of the public and private sectors. Through the membership of such experts, the State can create a thorough and longstanding plan that can transcend administrations.

SB 982 aims to modernize Maryland's state government IT infrastructure through key strategies:

- Creates a non-lapsing Information Technology Investment Fund to finance legacy system assessments and replacements. Investing in modernization is fundamental to maintaining secure IT systems; a non-lapsing fund will ensure that state agencies have access to the funds they need for these imperative upgrades.
- Expands the duties of the Modernize Maryland Oversight Commission to focus on best practices for modernization and providing recommendations to government units and the legislature.
- Exempts IT modernization projects from approval by the Board of Public Works, streamlining the process and reducing friction in the modernization process.
- Requires the Secretary of Information Technology to develop a State Modernization Plan

FAVORABLE

and a strategy for centralizing IT management to reduce costs and unnecessary redundancies.

This bill can affect lasting change, including: improved government efficiency; public-private collaboration opportunities; and transparency and accountability. For these reasons, CAMI supports SB 982 and requests a favorable report from the committee.