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Appropriations Committee

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Capital Budget

Education and Economic Development  
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*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 1486**

Economic Development – Cyber Maryland Fund and Program – Alterations

Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes

Health and Government Operations

March 12, 2024

***What this bill does***

This bill makes necessary changes to allow The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) flexibility in hiring of consultants and other professionals to administer the Cyber Maryland Program and Fund.

***Why this is necessary***

[SB801](#) passed the legislature in the 2023 session and created the Cyber Maryland Program within TEDCO. The Cyber Maryland Program will create a talent pipeline in cybersecurity and serve as a hub for State workforce development in the field of cybersecurity and research in this field. This bill is necessary to amend the language in the original bill to allow the agency staffing flexibility. This change also makes the language in administration of the Cyber Maryland Program more aligned with other programs that TEDCO administers.

***Why you should vote for this bill***

This is a technical change that is necessary to allow TEDCO to administer the program in the spirit that was intended when the original legislation was passed.

I ask for a favorable report. Thank you.