



**HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Senate Bill 294**  
**Maryland Cybersecurity Council - Alterations**  
**March 25, 2025**  
**Favorable with Amendment**

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and members of the committee, thank you for allowing the University System of Maryland (USM) the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill 294. The bill modifies the membership, organization, and duties of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council (MCC).

The USM is comprised of twelve distinguished institutions, and three regional centers. We award eight out of every ten bachelor's degrees in the State. Each of University USM's 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes three Historically Black Institutions, comprehensive institutions and research universities, and the country's largest public online institution.

The USM supports the efforts of the MCC as it is staffed by the University of Maryland Global Campus, and includes representatives from State agencies, members of the General Assembly, and appointees by the Attorney General. While the USM did not testify on the original House or Senate versions, we have carefully reviewed the amendments to Senate Bill 294 and are generally supportive. However, we do have one concern that we would like to address.

Page 4, lines 3-5, reads: ***"TWO ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVES DESIGNATED BY THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, WITH DUE CONSIDERATION OF GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY; "***

The USM suggests that page 4, line 3, read: **"TWO ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIVES DESIGNATED BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND:"**

Although Senate Bill 294 dedicates seats to specific USM institutions, rest assured, the USM will seek individuals for whom "geography" and "technology" are true obstacles to quality cybersecurity education and training. If the idea is to cultivate greater access to advanced technology and proficiency in using digital tools and platforms, then leveraging a variety of online resources and educational tools to enhance the learning experience may drive more improvement. For urban and rural institutions alike – whether in Princess Anne at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, or in Allegany County on the campus of Frostburg State University – exposure to diverse technological environments fosters creativity and innovation in problem-solving.

Understanding the legislative intent, the USM offers this amendment as a way to strengthen the work of the MCC and preserve USM's ability to bring distinct voices to the conversation.



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