

The Honorable Katie Fry Hester  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Senate Bill 601 – Cybersecurity – Standards and Compliance – Alterations: Support

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

I respectfully submit this letter in support of SB 601, Cybersecurity – Standards and Compliance – Alterations.

As a former senior executive with the United States Secret Service with more than 25 years of experience addressing complex national security and cyber-enabled threats, and now serving as Head of Public Policy at SecurityScorecard, where I work with federal, state, and local governments to strengthen cyber risk management practices, I have seen firsthand how K–12 institutions have become frequent targets of ransomware, data theft, and third-party compromise. Schools are not only educational institutions, they are critical infrastructure within our communities.

SB 601 takes an important and responsible step by requiring local school systems to comply with State Minimum Cybersecurity Standards, conduct recurring cybersecurity maturity assessments, and formally certify compliance. These provisions introduce measurable accountability and continuous improvement; core principles of modern cybersecurity governance aligned with nationally recognized NIST best practices.

This legislation is particularly important because it shifts cybersecurity from voluntary guidance to structured, verifiable standards. Clear requirements for designated local points of contact, standardized reporting, and recurring assessments will significantly improve coordination, transparency, and incident response effectiveness across the State.

Recognizing cybersecurity as an authorized education technology expenditure is also a critical and practical update. School systems must have the flexibility to invest in protective controls, risk visibility tools, and remediation efforts that safeguard student data and ensure operational continuity. As implementation progresses, scalable and data-driven approaches, particularly those that provide objective risk measurement and continuous monitoring, will help school systems meet compliance obligations efficiently and cost-effectively.



Maryland has an opportunity to lead by pairing clear statutory standards with modern risk management practices that strengthen resilience across all local school systems. SB 601 establishes a strong policy framework that supports that goal.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 601. I appreciate your leadership on this important issue and would welcome the opportunity to serve as a resource as the bill advances or as implementation planning begins.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Centrella

Head of Public Policy, SecurityScorecard

For any questions or more information regarding SSC's position, please contact [Michael.Walsh@capitol-strategies.com](mailto:Michael.Walsh@capitol-strategies.com)