



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Katie Savage | Secretary

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Department of Information Technology
RE: Senate Bill 601 - Cybersecurity - Standards and Compliance - Alterations
DATE: February 26, 2026
POSITION: Support with Amendments

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman,

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) respectfully submits this letter in support of Senate Bill 601, with amendments.

SB 601 reflects an important commitment to strengthening cybersecurity capacity within Maryland's local school systems. DoIT shares the goal of improving coordination and ensuring schools have access to cybersecurity expertise and resources as threats continue to evolve.

However, as drafted, the bill may unintentionally create ambiguity regarding DoIT's role and could impose operational responsibilities that extend beyond the Department's enterprise governance function. DoIT's role is to provide leadership, guidance, and subject matter expertise, not to assume day-to-day operational management of local systems.

To better align the bill with this intent while preserving meaningful support for local school systems, DoIT respectfully supports the following amendments:

Amendment No. 1

On page 1, in line 9, after "and" insert ", if necessary,"; in line 10, strike "support" and substitute "advise"; in the same line, strike "with" and substitute "on"; and strike beginning with "and" in line 10 down through "year" in line 11.

Amendment No. 2

On page 2, in line 9, strike “COUNTY BOARD” and substitute “LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM”.

On page 3, in line 8, strike the second “and”; in line 9, strike the comma and substitute “AND”; in line 10, strike the first comma; in the same line, strike “information technology staff, AND CYBERSECURITY” and substitute “; AND (9) CYBERSECURITY SERVICES, TECHNOLOGY, AND STAFF”; and in line 19, strike “county board” and substitute “LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM”.

On page 6, in line 9, after “AND” insert “, IF NECESSARY,”; in line 28, after “(D)” insert “(1)”; in the same line, strike “THE DEPARTMENT’S INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICERS” and substitute “ON REQUEST, THE DEPARTMENT”; in line 29, strike “SUPPORT” and substitute “ADVISE”; in the same line, strike “WITH” and substitute “ON”; and in lines 30 and 32, strike “(1)” and “(2)”, respectively, and substitute “(I)” and “(II)”, respectively.

On page 7, in line 2, strike “(3)” and substitute “(III)”; after line 2, insert:

“(2) THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE OF OR DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE DUTIES OF A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.”; and strike beginning with the second comma in line 16 down through “That” in line 19.

These amendments clarify that DoIT’s role is to provide advisory support when requested, while preserving the operational responsibility of local school systems for their own cybersecurity programs. This ensures the bill strengthens coordination without creating unintended mandates or shifting accountability.

With these amendments, DoIT believes SB 601 can effectively support cybersecurity resilience across Maryland’s education sector in a manner consistent with existing governance frameworks.

Best,

Katie Savage
Secretary
Department of Information Technology