



A Union of Professionals
AFT-Maryland

5800 Metro Drive, Suite 100 • Baltimore, MD 21215-3226
410/764-3030 • fax: 410/764-3008
md.aft.org

Kenya Campbell
PRESIDENT

LaBrina Hopkins
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**Written Testimony to the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
SB 601 - Cybersecurity - Standards and Compliance - Alterations
February 26, 2026**

FAVORABLE

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee: AFT Maryland urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 601. As our state's infrastructure and government services become increasingly digital, the threat of cyber-attacks has never been higher. SB 601 provides a necessary update to Maryland's cybersecurity framework by refining our standards and ensuring that both state agencies and their partners are held to a consistent, high level of security.

The bill focuses on aligning Maryland's requirements with updated best practices. Technology moves fast, and static laws quickly become obsolete. SB 601 helps to ensure that our minimum standards are effective against modern threats. This isn't just about checking a box; it's about creating a culture of accountability. By clarifying which entities must comply and how that compliance is verified, the bill closes dangerous gaps that hackers often exploit to gain access to state networks through third-party vendors or local government systems.

The alterations proposed in SB 601 help streamline the reporting and oversight process. In the event of a security incident, time is the most valuable resource. This bill helps ensure that communication between agencies and the Office of Security Management is clear and efficient, to allow a faster coordinated response to mitigate damage. It also provides a more realistic and enforceable framework for local governments, acknowledging that while security is mandatory, the path to achieving it must be clear and supported by state-level guidance.

SB 601 is a common-sense measure to protect Maryland's digital borders and the private data of our residents. It ensures that our state remains a leader in cybersecurity and that our public institutions are resilient against the evolving landscape of digital crime. For these reasons we urge a favorable report. Thank you.

