

HOUSE BILL 378

Q3

7lr0144
CF SB 318

By: **The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Adams, Afzali, Anderton, Arentz, Aumann, Beitzel, Buckel, Carozza, Cassilly, Ciliberti, Clark, Cluster, Flanagan, Folden, Grammer, Hornberger, Jacobs, Kipke, Kittleman, Krebs, Long, Malone, Mautz, McComas, McConkey, McKay, Metzgar, Miele, Otto, Reilly, Rose, Saab, Shoemaker, Simonaire, Szeliga, Vogt, West, B. Wilson, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2017

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Tax Credit – Eligibility and Sunset**
3 **Extension**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the eligibility criteria for the cybersecurity investment
5 incentive tax credit to provide the credit to a certain qualified investor in a certain
6 qualified Maryland cybersecurity company rather than providing the credit to the
7 company; making conforming changes; extending the termination date of the credit;
8 providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to the cybersecurity
9 investment incentive tax credit.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

11 Article – Tax – General
12 Section 10–733
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2016 Replacement Volume)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

16 Chapter 390 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2013
17 Section 2

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Tax – General**

21 10–733.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (2) (i) “Company” means any entity of any form duly organized and
3 existing under the laws of any jurisdiction for the purpose of conducting business for profit.

4 (ii) “Company” does not include a sole proprietorship.

5 (3) “Cybersecurity company” means a company organized for profit that is
6 engaged primarily in the development of innovative and proprietary cybersecurity
7 technology.

8 (4) “Cybersecurity technology” means products or goods intended to detect
9 or prevent activity intended to result in unauthorized access to, exfiltration of,
10 manipulation of, or impairment to the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of an
11 information system or information stored on or transiting an information system.

12 (5) “Department” means the Department of Commerce.

13 (6) (i) “Investment” means the contribution of money in cash or cash
14 equivalents expressed in United States dollars, at a risk of loss, to a qualified Maryland
15 cybersecurity company in exchange for stock, a partnership or membership interest, or any
16 other ownership interest in the equity of the qualified Maryland cybersecurity company,
17 title to which ownership interest shall vest in the qualified investor.

18 (ii) “Investment” does not include debt.

19 (iii) For purposes of this section, an investment is at risk of loss when
20 repayment entirely depends on the success of the business operations of the qualified
21 company.

22 (7) “Panel” means the panel that the Department may establish under
23 subsection (e) of this section composed of experts in the area of cybersecurity technology.

24 (8) (i) “Qualified investor” means any individual or entity that invests
25 at least \$25,000 in a qualified Maryland cybersecurity company and that is required to file
26 an income tax return in any jurisdiction.

27 (ii) “Qualified investor” does not include a qualified pension plan, an
28 individual retirement account, or any other qualified retirement plan under the Employee
29 Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, or fiduciaries or custodians under
30 such plans, or similar tax–favored plans or entities under the laws of other countries.

31 (9) “Qualified Maryland cybersecurity company” means a cybersecurity
32 company that has met the criteria set forth in subsection [(c)(2)](B)(2) of this section [and
33 been determined under subsection (c)(3)(ii)2 of this section to qualify for the tax credit
34 under this section].

1 (10) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

2 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection and subsections (d) and (f) of
3 this section, for the taxable year in which an investment in a qualified Maryland
4 cybersecurity company is made, a qualified [Maryland cybersecurity company] **INVESTOR**
5 may claim a credit against the State income tax in an amount equal to the amount of tax
6 credit stated in the final credit certificate approved by the Secretary for the investment as
7 provided under this section.

8 (2) [For purposes of] **TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR** the tax credit described in
9 paragraph (1) of this subsection, the qualified investor:

10 (i) may not, after making the proposed investment, own or control
11 more than 25% of the equity interests in the qualified Maryland cybersecurity company in
12 which the investment is made; and

13 (ii) **AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO MAKING AN INVESTMENT IN A**
14 **QUALIFIED MARYLAND CYBERSECURITY COMPANY FOR WHICH THE QUALIFIED**
15 **INVESTOR WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN INITIAL TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE UNDER**
16 **THIS SUBSECTION**, shall submit an application to the Department containing the
17 following:

18 1. evidence that the investor is:

19 A. if a company, duly organized and in good standing in the
20 jurisdiction under the laws under which it is organized;

21 B. current in the payment of all tax obligations to a state or
22 any unit or subdivision of a state; and

23 C. not in default under the terms of any contract with,
24 indebtedness to, or grant from a state or any unit or subdivision of a state; [and

25 2. any other information the Department may require.

26 (c) (1) At least 30 days prior to receiving an investment in a qualified
27 Maryland cybersecurity company for which a qualified Maryland cybersecurity company
28 would be eligible for an initial tax credit certificate, the qualified Maryland cybersecurity
29 company shall submit an application to the Department.

30 (2) The application shall] **2.** evidence that the qualified Maryland
31 cybersecurity company has satisfied the following minimum requirements for consideration
32 as a qualified Maryland cybersecurity company:

33 [(i)] **A.** has its headquarters and base of operations in this State;

1 [(ii)] **B.** has not participated in the tax credit program under this
2 section for more than 1 prior fiscal year;

3 [(iii)] **C.** has been in active business no longer than 5 years;

4 [(iv)] **D.** has an aggregate capitalization of at least \$100,000;

5 [(v)] **E.** owns or has properly licensed any proprietary technology;

6 [(vi)] **F.** has fewer than 50 full-time employees;

7 [(vii)] **G.** does not have its securities publicly traded on any
8 exchange;

9 [(viii)] **H.** is in good standing;

10 [(ix)] **I.** is current in the payment of all tax obligations to the State
11 or any unit or subdivision of the State;

12 [(x)] **J.** is not in default under the terms of any contract with,
13 indebtedness to, or grant from the State or any unit or subdivision of the State; and

14 [(xi)] **K.** meets any other reasonable requirements of the
15 Department evidencing that the company is a going concern primarily engaged in the
16 development of innovative and proprietary cybersecurity technology; **AND**

17 **3. ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT MAY**
18 **REQUIRE.**

19 [(3)](C)(1) The Department shall:

20 (i) approve all applications that qualify for credits under this section
21 on a first-come, first-served basis; and

22 (ii) within 30 calendar days of receipt of an application:

23 1. certify the amount of any approved tax credits to a
24 qualified [Maryland cybersecurity company] **INVESTOR**; and

25 2. determine whether a cybersecurity company qualifies for
26 investments that are eligible for the tax credit under this section.

27 [(4)](2) (i) After the date on which the Department issues an initial
28 tax credit certificate under this section, a qualified investor shall have 30 calendar days to
29 make an investment in a qualified Maryland cybersecurity company under this section.

1 (ii) Within 10 calendar days after the date on which a qualified
2 investor makes the investment, the qualified [Maryland cybersecurity company]
3 **INVESTOR** shall provide to the Department notice and proof of the making of the
4 investment, including:

- 5 1. the date of the investment;
- 6 2. the amount invested;
- 7 3. proof of the receipt of the invested funds by the qualified
8 Maryland cybersecurity company;
- 9 4. a complete description of the nature of the ownership
10 interest in the equity of the qualified Maryland cybersecurity company acquired in
11 consideration of the investment; and
- 12 5. any reasonable supporting documentation the
13 Department may require.

14 (iii) If a qualified [Maryland cybersecurity company] **INVESTOR** does
15 not provide the notice and proof of the making of the investment required in subparagraph
16 (ii) of this paragraph within 40 calendar days after the date on which the Department
17 issues an initial tax credit certificate under this section:

- 18 1. the Department shall rescind the initial tax credit
19 certificate; and
- 20 2. the credit amount allocated to the rescinded certificate
21 shall revert to the Maryland Cybersecurity Investment Tax Credit Reserve Fund and shall
22 be available in the applicable fiscal year for allocation by the Department to other initial
23 tax credit certificates in accordance with the provisions of this section.

24 (d) (1) The tax credit allowed in an initial tax credit certificate issued under
25 this section is:

26 (i) except as provided in item (ii) of this paragraph, 33% of the
27 investment in a qualified Maryland cybersecurity company, not to exceed \$250,000; or

28 (ii) if a qualified Maryland cybersecurity company is located in
29 Allegany County, Dorchester County, Garrett County, or Somerset County, 50% of the
30 investment in the qualified Maryland cybersecurity company, not to exceed \$500,000.

31 (2) During any fiscal year, the Secretary may not certify eligibility for tax
32 credits for investments in a single qualified Maryland cybersecurity company that in the
33 aggregate exceed 15% of the total appropriations to the Maryland Cybersecurity
34 Investment Tax Credit Reserve Fund for that fiscal year.

1 (3) If the credit allowed under this section in any taxable year exceeds the
2 State income tax for that taxable year, an individual or a corporation may claim a refund
3 in the amount of the excess.

4 (e) (1) The Department may establish a panel composed of experts in the area
5 of cybersecurity technology.

6 (2) The Department may establish the panel under service contracts with
7 independent reviewers.

8 (3) The panel shall assist the Department in its determination as to
9 whether a company is a qualified Maryland cybersecurity company.

10 (4) A member of the panel is not eligible to receive any benefit, direct or
11 indirect, from the tax credit under this section.

12 (5) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph,
13 Division II of the State Finance and Procurement Article does not apply to a service that
14 the Department obtains under this section.

15 (ii) The Department is subject to Title 12, Subtitle 4 of the State
16 Finance and Procurement Article for services the Department obtains under this section.

17 (f) (1) In this subsection, "Reserve Fund" means the Maryland Cybersecurity
18 Investment Tax Credit Reserve Fund established under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

19 (2) (i) There is a Maryland Cybersecurity Investment Tax Credit
20 Reserve Fund which is a special continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302
21 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

22 (ii) The money in the Reserve Fund shall be invested and reinvested
23 by the Treasurer, and interest and earnings shall be credited to the General Fund.

24 (iii) The money in the Reserve Fund may be used by the Department
25 to pay the costs of administering the tax credit program under this section.

26 (3) (i) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the Secretary shall
27 issue an initial tax credit certificate to a qualified [Maryland cybersecurity company]
28 **INVESTOR** for each approved investment in a qualified Maryland cybersecurity company
29 eligible for a tax credit.

30 (ii) An initial tax credit certificate issued under this subsection shall
31 state the maximum amount of tax credit for which the qualified [Maryland cybersecurity
32 company] **INVESTOR** is eligible.

1 (iii) 1. Except as otherwise provided in this subparagraph, for
2 any fiscal year, the Secretary may not issue initial tax credit certificates for credit amounts
3 in the aggregate totaling more than the amount appropriated to the Reserve Fund for that
4 fiscal year in the State budget as approved by the General Assembly, as reduced by the
5 amount needed to pay the costs of administering the tax credit program under this section.

6 2. If the aggregate credit amounts under initial tax credit
7 certificates issued in a fiscal year total less than the amount appropriated to the Reserve
8 Fund for that fiscal year, any excess amount shall remain in the Reserve Fund and may be
9 issued under initial tax credit certificates for the next fiscal year.

10 3. For any fiscal year, if funds are transferred from the
11 Reserve Fund under the authority of any provision of law other than under paragraph (4)
12 of this subsection, the maximum credit amounts in the aggregate for which the Secretary
13 may issue initial tax credit certificates shall be reduced by the amount transferred.

14 (iv) 1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2 of this
15 subparagraph, for each fiscal year, the Governor shall include in the budget bill an
16 appropriation of at least \$2,000,000 to the Reserve Fund.

17 2. In fiscal year 2016, the Governor shall include in the
18 budget bill an appropriation of at least \$1,500,000 to the Reserve Fund.

19 (v) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 7-213 of the State Finance
20 and Procurement Article, the Governor may not reduce an appropriation to the Reserve
21 Fund in the State budget as approved by the General Assembly.

22 (vi) Based on the actual amount of an investment made by a qualified
23 investor, the Secretary shall issue a final tax credit certificate to the qualified [Maryland
24 cybersecurity company] **INVESTOR**.

25 (4) (i) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, money
26 appropriated to the Reserve Fund shall remain in the Reserve Fund.

27 (ii) 1. Within 15 days after the end of each calendar quarter, the
28 Department shall notify the Comptroller as to each final credit certificate issued during the
29 quarter:

30 A. the maximum credit amount stated in the initial tax credit
31 certificate for the investment in the qualified Maryland cybersecurity company; and

32 B. the final certified credit amount for the investment in the
33 qualified Maryland cybersecurity company.

34 2. On notification that an investment has been certified, the
35 Comptroller shall transfer an amount equal to the credit amount stated in the initial tax
36 credit certificate for the investment from the Reserve Fund to the General Fund.

1 (iii) 1. Periodically, but not more frequently than quarterly, the
2 Department may submit invoices for costs that have been incurred or are anticipated to be
3 incurred in administering the tax credit program under this section.

4 2. The Comptroller shall transfer money from the Reserve
5 Fund to the Department to pay for costs that have been incurred or are anticipated to be
6 incurred in administering the tax credit program under this section.

7 (g) (1) The credit claimed under this section shall be recaptured as provided
8 in paragraph (2) of this subsection if within 2 years from the close of the taxable year for
9 which the credit is claimed:

10 (i) the qualified investor sells, transfers, or otherwise disposes of the
11 ownership interest in the qualified Maryland cybersecurity company that gave rise to the
12 credit; or

13 (ii) the qualified Maryland cybersecurity company that [received]
14 **GAVE RISE TO** the credit:

15 1. ceases operating as an active business with its
16 headquarters and base of operations in the State; or

17 2. pays out as dividends or otherwise distributes the equity
18 investment.

19 (2) The amount required to be recaptured under this subsection is the
20 product of multiplying:

21 (i) the total amount of the credit claimed or, in the case of an event
22 described in paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection, the portion of the credit attributable to the
23 ownership interest disposed of; and

24 (ii) 1. 100%, if the event requiring recapture of the credit occurs
25 during the taxable year for which the tax credit is claimed;

26 2. 67%, if the event requiring recapture of the credit occurs
27 during the first year after the close of the taxable year for which the tax credit is claimed;
28 or

29 3. 33%, if the event requiring recapture of the credit occurs
30 more than 1 year but not more than 2 years after the close of the taxable year for which the
31 tax credit is claimed.

32 (3) The qualified [Maryland cybersecurity company] **INVESTOR** that
33 claimed the credit shall pay the amount to be recaptured as determined under paragraph

1 (2) of this subsection as taxes payable to the State for the taxable year in which the event
2 requiring recapture of the credit occurs.

3 (h) (1) The Department may revoke its initial or final certification of an
4 approved credit under this section if any representation made in connection with the
5 application for the certification is determined by the Department to have been false.

6 (2) The revocation may be in full or in part as the Department may
7 determine and, subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, shall be communicated to the
8 qualified investor, the qualified Maryland cybersecurity company, and the Comptroller.

9 (3) The qualified [Maryland cybersecurity company] **INVESTOR** shall have
10 an opportunity to appeal any revocation to the Department prior to notification of the
11 Comptroller.

12 (4) The Comptroller may make an assessment against the qualified
13 [Maryland cybersecurity company] **INVESTOR** to recapture any amount of tax credit that
14 the qualified [Maryland cybersecurity company] **INVESTOR** has already claimed.

15 (i) (1) In accordance with § 2.5–109 of the Economic Development Article, the
16 Department shall submit a report on the initial tax credit certificates awarded under this
17 section for the calendar year.

18 (2) The report required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include
19 for each initial tax credit certificate awarded:

20 (i) the name of the qualified investor and the amount of credit
21 awarded or allocated to each qualified [Maryland cybersecurity company] **INVESTOR**;

22 (ii) the name and address of the qualified Maryland cybersecurity
23 company that received **THE INVESTMENT GIVING RISE TO** the credit under this section
24 and the county where the qualified Maryland cybersecurity company is located; and

25 (iii) the dates of receipt and approval by the Department of all
26 applications for initial tax credit certificates.

27 (3) The report required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall
28 summarize for the categories of qualified investors [and qualified Maryland cybersecurity
29 companies]:

30 (i) the total number of applicants for initial tax credit certificates
31 under this section in each calendar year;

32 (ii) the number of applications for which initial tax credit certificates
33 were issued in each calendar year; and

1 (iii) the total initial tax credit certificates authorized under this
2 section for all calendar years under this section.

3 (j) The Department and the Comptroller jointly shall adopt regulations to carry
4 out the provisions of this section and to specify criteria and procedures for application for,
5 approval of, and monitoring continuing eligibility for the tax credit under this section.

6 **Chapter 390 of the Acts of 2013**

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2013, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013, but
9 before January 1, **[2019] 2023**. This Act shall remain effective for a period of **[6] 10** years
10 and, at the end of June 30, **[2019] 2023** with no further action required by the General
11 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
13 1, 2017, and shall be applicable to all initial tax credit certificates issued after June 30,
14 2017.