SENATE BILL 753

By: Senator Hester
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022
Assigned to: Finance and Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning
Labor and Employment – Workforce Development – Cybersecurity

FOR the purpose of establishing the Cybersecurity Workforce Accelerator Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore County to increase the cybersecurity workforce in the State, increase the investment of the State in cybersecurity workforce programs and educational programs at certain institutions, and for other purposes related to the cybersecurity workforce in the State; requiring the Department of Commerce and the Maryland Department of Labor to assist in administering the Accelerator Program as necessary; establishing the Cybersecurity Workforce Accelerator Fund; and generally relating to the Cybersecurity Workforce Accelerator and cybersecurity workforce programs.

BY adding to
Article – Labor and Employment
Section 11–606
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Labor and Employment

11–606.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “ACCELERATOR PROGRAM” MEANS THE CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ACCELERATOR PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS A CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ACCELERATOR PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY.
(C) The purposes of the Accelerator Program are to:

(1) Increase the number of individuals entering the cybersecurity workforce in the State;

(2) Develop a statewide approach to cybersecurity workforce development;

(3) Expand, market, and increase the efficiency of cybersecurity workforce programs in the State;

(4) Invest in new and innovative cybersecurity education programs that align with the strategy of the Talent Pipeline Management Initiative of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation; and

(5) Provide coordination between institutions that provide elementary and secondary education and institutions of higher education to prepare students for entrance into the cybersecurity workforce.

(D) The Accelerator Program shall:

(1) Work with major industry cybersecurity organizations to expand, market, and coordinate existing State cybersecurity workforce programs;

(2) Work with the cybersecurity industry to ensure that State cybersecurity workforce programs, including programs in the Department, address the needs of the cybersecurity industry;

(3) Publish a strategy to fill open cybersecurity positions by 2025;

(4) Work with the federal CyberCorps Scholarship for Service Program to advertise cybersecurity positions that are available and assist students with the application process;

(5) Work with the Department of Commerce to increase demand–side planning to identify the specific and real–time needs of cybersecurity employers in the State, including by:
(I) PROVIDING, AT NO COST, CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES THAT DETERMINE HOW AN EMPLOYER’S SPECIFIC NEEDS CAN BEST BE MET;

(II) MANAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN MEET CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE NEEDS; AND

(III) CONDUCTING RESEARCH AND OUTREACH THAT INCLUDES PLANNING AND COLLECTING REAL–TIME INDUSTRY DATA TO IDENTIFY CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE NEEDS;

(6) WORK WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO:

(I) ESTABLISH A SUMMER K–12 TEACHER EXTERNSHIP GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE TEACHERS WITH PAID EXTERNSHIPS OVER THE SUMMER TO APPRENTICE AT CYBERSECURITY COMPANIES AND PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE CYBERSECURITY RANGE TRAINING; AND

(II) DEVELOP AND INVEST IN EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER PATHWAYS IN CYBERSECURITY THAT MEET THE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS STANDARD ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UNDER § 7–205.1 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE;

(7) WORK WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO GROW THE MARYLAND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT RIGHT NOW FOR CYBERSECURITY PROGRAMS AND THE MARYLAND APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT;

(8) PRODUCE, IN CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS, A STRATEGIC ROADMAP TO FILL AVAILABLE CYBERSECURITY POSITIONS BY CALENDAR YEAR 2025;

(9) WORK WITH APPROPRIATE PARTNERS TO PROVIDE CYBERSECURITY RANGE TRAINING AT ALL LEVELS;

(10) EXPAND THE MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TO INCLUDE UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT; AND

(11) ADMINISTER THE CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ACCELERATOR FUND.
(E) (1) In this subsection, “Fund” means the Cybersecurity Workforce Accelerator Fund.

(2) There is a Cybersecurity Workforce Accelerator Fund.

(3) The purpose of the Fund is to support innovative approaches to meeting cybersecurity workforce needs.

(4) The Accelerator Program shall administer the Fund.

(5) (i) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(ii) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

(6) The Fund consists of:

(i) money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; and

(ii) any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.

(7) The Fund may be used only for:

(i) administration of the Accelerator Program; and

(ii) providing grants to elementary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations to operate cybersecurity workforce development programs.

(8) (i) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.

(ii) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the General Fund of the State.

(9) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the State budget.
(10) For fiscal year 2024 and 2025, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of $2,000,000 for the fund.

(f) The Department of Commerce and the Department shall assist in administering the Accelerator Program as necessary.

(g) For each fiscal year, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of:

(1) $1,000,000 to the Maryland Employment Advancement Right Now for cybersecurity programs and administrative support;

(2) $1,000,000 to the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program for cybersecurity workforce development and administrative support;

(3) $450,000 to the University of Maryland Baltimore County to fund the Accelerator Program, including $250,000 to be used for the purposes of subsection (d)(5)(II) of this section;

(4) $2,500,000 to the Cyber Warrior Diversity Program;

(5) $500,000 to fund the Summer K–12 Teacher Externship Grant Program required under subsection (d)(6) of this section;

(6) $1,000,000 for the University System of Maryland to develop cyber range scenarios based on industry demand;

(7) $500,000 to fund education opportunities about cybersecurity careers in elementary and secondary education; and

(8) $500,000 for the Maryland Technology Internship Program.

(h) The appropriations required to be included in the annual budget bill under subsections (e)(10) and (g) of this section are supplemental to and are not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated for those purposes.

(i) On or before December 1 each year, the University of Maryland Baltimore County, in conjunction with the Department and the Department of Commerce, shall submit a report on the operation
AND PERFORMANCE OF THE Accelerator Program TO THE Governor AND, IN
accordance with § 2–1257 OF THE State Government Article, the General
Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.