

HOUSE BILL 969

C5, S2

3lr2834
CF SB 800

By: **Delegate Qi**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Economic Matters and Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Commission – Cybersecurity Staffing and Assessments**
3 **(Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Act of 2023)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to include on its staff a certain
5 number of experts in cybersecurity to perform certain duties; requiring the
6 Commission to establish, in coordination with the Office of Security Management,
7 cybersecurity standards and best practices for regulated entities, share information
8 on cybersecurity initiatives and best practices with certain entities, and conduct a
9 certain periodic assessment; requiring certain public service companies, including
10 certain electric cooperatives, to adopt and implement certain cybersecurity
11 standards and a zero-trust cybersecurity approach for certain services, establish
12 certain minimum security standards, and periodically contract with a third party to
13 conduct a certain assessment and submit certain information to the Commission
14 beginning in a certain year; requiring the Commission to conduct an evaluation on
15 or before a certain date based on certain assessments; and generally relating to
16 cybersecurity standards and assessments for public service companies and the Public
17 Service Commission.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Corporations and Associations
20 Section 5–637
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
24 Article – Public Utilities
25 Section 1–101(a)
26 Annotated Code of Maryland
27 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

28 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – Public Utilities
2 Section 1–101(h–1) and 5–306
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article – Public Utilities
7 Section 2–108(d) and 2–113
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – State Finance and Procurement
12 Section 3.5–301(a) and (b)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Corporations and Associations**

18 5–637.

19 (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, this subtitle
20 applies to the provision of broadband Internet service by a member–regulated cooperative.

21 (2) A member–regulated cooperative may not, for the sole purpose of
22 providing broadband Internet service, exercise the power of condemnation under §
23 5–607(a)(16) of this subtitle.

24 (b) A member–regulated cooperative is subject to the following provisions of the
25 Public Utilities Article:

26 (1) § 5–103;

27 (2) § 5–201;

28 (3) § 5–202;

29 (4) § 5–303;

30 (5) § 5–304;

31 **(6) § 5–306;**

32 **[(6)] (7) § 7–103;**

1 [(7)] **(8)** § 7–104;

2 [(8)] **(9)** § 7–203;

3 [(9)] **(10)** § 7–207;

4 [(10)] **(11)** § 7–302;

5 [(11)] **(12)** Title 7, Subtitle 5, Part I and Part II;

6 [(12)] **(13)** Title 7, Subtitle 7; and

7 [(13)] **(14)** § 13–101.

8 **Article – Public Utilities**

9 1–101.

10 (a) In this division the following words have the meanings indicated.

11 **(H–1) “CYBERSECURITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3.5–301 OF THE**
 12 **STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

13 2–108.

14 (d) (1) The State budget shall provide sufficient money for the Commission to
 15 hire, develop, and organize a staff to perform the functions of the Commission, including
 16 analyzing data submitted to the Commission and participating in proceedings as provided
 17 in § 3–104 of this article.

18 (2) (i) As the Commission considers necessary, the Commission shall
 19 hire experts including economists, cost of capital experts, rate design experts, accountants,
 20 engineers, transportation specialists, and lawyers.

21 (ii) To assist in the regulation of intrastate hazardous liquid
 22 pipelines under Title 11, Subtitle 2 of this article, the Commission shall include on its staff
 23 at least one engineer who specializes in the storage of and the transportation of hazardous
 24 liquid materials by pipeline.

25 (3) **THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE ON ITS STAFF ONE OR MORE**
 26 **EMPLOYEES THAT ARE EXPERTS IN CYBERSECURITY TO:**

27 **(i) ADVISE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION AND THE**
 28 **COMMISSIONERS ON MEASURES TO IMPROVE OVERSIGHT OF THE CYBERSECURITY**
 29 **PRACTICES OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES;**

1 (II) CONSULT WITH THE OFFICE OF SECURITY MANAGEMENT
2 ON CYBERSECURITY ISSUES RELATED TO UTILITY REGULATION;

3 (III) STUDY AND MONITOR CYBERSECURITY BEST PRACTICES
4 FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY;

5 (IV) ASSIST IN DRAFTING CYBERSECURITY-RELATED
6 REGULATIONS;

7 (V) ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN MONITORING THE MINIMUM
8 SECURITY STANDARDS DEVELOPED UNDER § 5-306 OF THIS ARTICLE;

9 (VI) CONVENE WORKSHOPS WITH PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES
10 THAT DO NOT MEET MINIMUM SECURITY STANDARDS; AND

11 (VII) PREPARE REPORTS FOR THE COMMISSION TO REVIEW,
12 INCLUDING REPORTS ON:

13 1. CYBERSECURITY THREATS AND SOURCES; AND

14 2. THE EFFICACY OF CYBERSECURITY PRACTICES OF
15 PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES.

16 (4) The Commission may retain on a case by case basis additional experts
17 as required for a particular matter.

18 [(4)] (5) The lawyers who represent the Commission staff in proceedings
19 before the Commission shall be appointed by the Commission and shall be organized and
20 operate independently of the office of General Counsel.

21 [(5)] (6) (i) As required, the Commission shall hire public utility law
22 judges.

23 (ii) Public utility law judges are a separate organizational unit and
24 shall report directly to the Commission.

25 [(6)] (7) The Commission shall hire personal staff members for each
26 commissioner as required to provide advice, draft proposed orders and rulings, and perform
27 other personal staff functions.

28 (8) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

1 **(I) COLLABORATE WITH THE OFFICE OF SECURITY**
2 **MANAGEMENT TO ESTABLISH CYBERSECURITY STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES**
3 **FOR REGULATED ENTITIES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT UTILITY NEEDS AND**
4 **CAPABILITIES BASED ON SIZE;**

5 **(II) PERIODICALLY SHARE INFORMATION ON CYBERSECURITY**
6 **INITIATIVES AND BEST PRACTICES WITH MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES;**

7 **(III) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND EVERY 2**
8 **YEARS THEREAFTER, EVALUATE THE ASSESSMENTS SUBMITTED UNDER §**
9 **5-306 OF THIS ARTICLE FOR CYBERSECURITY-RELATED POLICIES AND**
10 **PROCEDURES, INCLUDING CYBERSECURITY AND DATA PRIVACY THREAT**
11 **PROTECTIONS; AND**

12 **(IV) SUBMIT THE EVALUATION UNDER ITEM (III) OF THIS**
13 **PARAGRAPH TO THE OFFICE OF SECURITY MANAGEMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF**
14 **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY**
15 **MANAGEMENT.**

16 **[(7)] (9)** Subject to § 3-104 of this article, the Commission may delegate
17 to a commissioner or personnel the authority to perform an administrative function
18 necessary to carry out a duty of the Commission.

19 **[(8)] (10)** (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph
20 or otherwise by law, all personnel of the Commission are subject to the provisions of the
21 State Personnel and Pensions Article.

22 (ii) The following are in the executive service, management service,
23 or are special appointments in the State Personnel Management System:

- 24 1. each commissioner of the Commission;
- 25 2. the Executive Director;
- 26 3. the General Counsel and each assistant general counsel;
- 27 4. the Executive Secretary;
- 28 5. the commissioners' personal staff members;
- 29 6. the chief public utility law judge; and
- 30 7. each license hearing officer.

1 (a) (1) The Commission shall:

2 (i) supervise and regulate the public service companies subject to
3 the jurisdiction of the Commission to:

4 1. ensure their operation in the interest of the public; and

5 2. promote adequate, economical, and efficient delivery of
6 utility services in the State without unjust discrimination; and

7 (ii) enforce compliance with the requirements of law by public
8 service companies, including requirements with respect to financial condition,
9 capitalization, franchises, plant, manner of operation, rates, and service.

10 (2) In supervising and regulating public service companies, the
11 Commission shall consider:

12 (i) the public safety;

13 (ii) the economy of the State;

14 (iii) the maintenance of fair and stable labor standards for affected
15 workers;

16 (iv) the conservation of natural resources;

17 (v) the preservation of environmental quality, including protection
18 of the global climate from continued short-term and long-term warming based on the best
19 available scientific information recognized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
20 Change; [and]

21 (vi) the achievement of the State's climate commitments for reducing
22 statewide greenhouse gas emissions, including those specified in Title 2, Subtitle 12 of the
23 Environment Article; AND

24 (VII) THE PROTECTION OF A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY'S
25 INFRASTRUCTURE AGAINST CYBERSECURITY THREATS.

26 (b) The powers and duties listed in this title do not limit the scope of the general
27 powers and duties of the Commission provided for by this division.

28 **5-306.**

29 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "ZERO-TRUST" MEANS A CYBERSECURITY APPROACH:

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

2 (b) “Cybersecurity” means processes or capabilities wherein systems,
3 communications, and information are protected and defended against damage,
4 unauthorized use or modification, and exploitation.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1, 2024,
6 the Public Service Commission shall conduct an evaluation based on assessments
7 conducted on a public service company’s information technology devices conducted under
8 Section 1 of this Act.

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2023.