



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

March 6, 2020

To: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General

Re: House Bill 996 – Department of Information Technology – Cybersecurity Response Team – **Letter of Information**

The Maryland Cybersecurity Council was established July 1, 2015, through Senate Bill 542.¹ Senate Bill 542 set forth the membership of the Council, including that the Council be chaired by the Attorney General. The membership was revised by Senate Bill 281, effective October 1, 2018. Pursuant to SB 542, the council must work with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other federal agencies, private sector businesses, and private cybersecurity experts to improve cybersecurity in Maryland. Beginning July 1, 2017, the council must submit a report of its activities every two years thereafter.

In their Initial Activities Report, published July 1, 2016, the Council recommended that Maryland establish a cybersecurity first responder reserve.² The reserve would coordinate with top cyber expert reservists in the event of a cyber security emergency, and suggested the Maryland Emergency Management Agency as the Agency to lead and coordinate the proposed cyber first responder reserve.³

The following year, the Council published the Maryland Cybersecurity Council Activities Report (2015-2017) on July 1, 2017.⁴ Again, the Council recommended the first responder reserve, but specified no details and confined itself to simply stating an objective. The Council's recommendation for a first responder reserve was again carried forward in the Council's July 1, 2019 Activities Report.⁵

¹ Md. Ann. Code, St. Gov't Art. §9-2901

² Maryland Cybersecurity Council, *Initial Activities Report*, pg. 11 (July 1, 2016), <https://www.umgc.edu/documents/upload/maryland-cybersecurity-council-initial-activities-report.pdf>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Maryland Cybersecurity Council, *Maryland Cybersecurity Council Activities Report (2015-2017)*, pgs. 8, 10 (July 1, 2017), <https://www.umgc.edu/documents/upload/maryland-cybersecurity-council-biennial-report-2015-2017.pdf>.

⁵ Maryland Cybersecurity Council, *Maryland Cybersecurity Council Activities Report (2017-2019)*, pg. 30 (July 1, 2019), <https://www.umgc.edu/documents/upload/maryland-cybersecurity-council-activities-report-2017-2019.pdf>.



House Bill 996 would fund the development of cybersecurity emergency response strategies by local jurisdictions, through the 9-1-1- Trust Fund. The Department of Information Technology, in consultation with the Maryland Cybersecurity Council, shall establish a cybersecurity response team whose responsibility would be to ensure each local jurisdiction has an emergency response strategy to protect technology infrastructure against attack or other cybersecurity incidents.