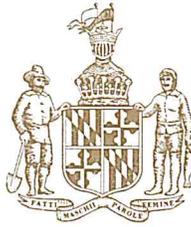


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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 873

***DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY –
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND
CONTRACTORS – CYBERSECURITY TRAINING***

MARCH 2, 2021

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 873 is a piece of legislation that implements one of the chief recommendations of the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Biotechnology in creating a statewide cybersecurity training apparatus.

The bill would require the Department of Information Technology (in coordination with the Maryland Cybersecurity Council) to develop criterion for the certification of varied cybersecurity training programs used by state and local government employees. The certification criteria would focus on forming information security habits to protect information resources, personal information, and records. The bill would additionally mandate the Department of Information Technology to certify at least twenty cybersecurity training programs and to maintain a list of all certified programs.

The legislation would also require corresponding state and local government employees, as well as certified contractors, to complete said training programs and require their government units to report the completion of employee training to the Department of Information Technology. To ensure compliance, the bill includes audit requirements at both the State and local unit level.

As the former House Chair of the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Biotechnology, I became acutely aware of the necessity of improving cybersecurity throughout state and local government. This piece of legislation is a significant step forward in achieving that aim and ensuring the safety of vital information.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 873.