



HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

House Bill 38

State Government - Department of Information Technology - Cybersecurity

January 21, 2021

Support with Amendment

Michael Eismeier

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Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on House Bill 38. House Bill 38 expands the responsibilities of the Secretary of Information Technology to include (1) advising and consulting with the Legislative and Judicial branches of State government regarding a cybersecurity strategy and (2) in consultation with the Attorney General, advising and overseeing a consistent cybersecurity strategy for units of State government, including institutions under the control of the governing boards of the public institutions of higher education, counties, municipal corporations, school districts, and all other political subdivisions of the State.

The University System of Maryland (USM) has developed cybersecurity policies and procedures appropriate for higher education institutions that may differ considerably from the state agency environment. Although these protocols maintain a functional compatibility with state cybersecurity policies and procedures, the research-intensive environment of our institutions demand protocols that may be unfamiliar to state information technology managers.

Systemwide policies are vetted through the Board of Regents (BOR) approved Cybersecurity Standards under the advisement of the Office of Legislative Audits – the same standards against which the USM is audited. USM utilizes the same National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) framework that the state has used. Additionally, USM technology managers are rewriting version 5 of our standards to adopt more advanced NIST and federal practices.

House Bill 38 would require that USM institutions adhere to a one-size-fits-all set of policies and procedures administered by the Secretary of Information Technology. However, the USM has deployed cybersecurity best practices tailored to meet the diverse mission of each institution. It is our desire to retain that autonomy. The USM respectfully requests an amendment to be excluded from the requirements called for under House Bill 38.

Thank you for allowing the USM to share these concerns regarding House Bill 38.

