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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

### **HB 1129 – Department of Information Technology – State and Local Government Employees and Contractors – Cybersecurity Training**

**March 10, 2021**

**Delegate Carol L. Krimm**

HB 1129 implements one of the chief recommendations of the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Biotechnology to create a statewide cybersecurity training apparatus.

The bill requires the Department of Information Technology (in coordination with the Maryland Cybersecurity Council) to develop criteria 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 mandates DoIT to certify and maintain a list of training programs.

The legislation also requires state and local government employees and certified contractors to complete training programs and require government units to report completion of employee training to DoIT. To ensure compliance the bill includes audit requirements at both the state and local level.

It is the responsibility of state government to protect the state's computer infrastructure and the information stored there. We all know the terms malware, ransomware, computer viruses, and the ever-present hackers. We only have to look to Baltimore City and Baltimore County Public School System last year to see the effects of corrupting computer systems by outside forces. A single event may cost tens of millions of dollars to correct not to mention the loss of productivity and information.

The workforce in the public and private sectors that integrate with the state computer system is the first line of defense against nefarious forces at work trying to hack into our systems. With proper training, this workforce can prevent disaster. As in the words of a DoIT staff member "You can't have too much cybersecurity in this current environment."

The cross-file of this bill is SB 873 and is sponsored in the name of the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology and Biotechnology in the Senate presented at the Senate public hearing by Senator Katie Fry Hester and Senator Michael Jackson who were chairs of the Joint Committee when I presented this bill to the Joint Committee.