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**BILL NO.:** Senate Bill 4

**TITLE:** Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment

**SPONSOR:** Senator Hester

**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

**DATE:** March 22, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 4 – Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment. This legislation would qualify certain part-time students as eligible for State cybersecurity scholarships.

Cybersecurity personnel are vital to the protection of government agencies, private operations and most business conducted today. With cybersecurity becoming one of the fastest growing sectors, there has been an influx in students entering the field; however, high the costs of courses can serve as a barrier to entry for those who wish to study cybersecurity. Prohibitive costs can also lead many students to take out large student loans, often times with no clear path to repay them.

SB 4 enhances accessibility to the cybersecurity sector. This bill would bring much-needed cybersecurity talent who find education cost prohibitive back to the industry. The COVID-19 Pandemic has brought a dramatic influx of cyberattacks, including ransomware attacks, on institutions that cannot afford to suffer software outages. Investing in cybersecurity expertise would ensure better protection toward likely future attacks.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 4. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).