Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL:	Senate Bill 4	**DATE:**	March 22, 2022
SUBJECT:	Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations	**COMMITTEE:**	Appropriations

POSITION: Support

CONTACTS: Yousuf Ahmad
410-767-0504
yousuf.ahmad1@maryland.gov

EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) supports **Senate Bill 4 – Cybersecurity Scholarship Program- Alterations**, which requires MSDE to provide information about the Cybersecurity Scholarship Program and Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program to high school students who participate in career and technical education (CTE) programs related to cybersecurity.

Over 21,000 high school students are enrolled in CTE programs related to cybersecurity. There are multiple communication channels that MSDE can use to share information about the Cybersecurity Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs. MSDE can directly share information with all 24 school systems through monthly CTE Directors meetings and quarterly Computer Science Supervisors meetings. These meetings can be used to distribute information about the programs identified in the legislation to school system staff to share with students. MSDE also leads Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). These organizations are composed of CTE students. MSDE will share scholarship and loan repayment information directly with CTE students through CTSOs. MSDE partners with businesses and institutions of higher education to lead computer science and cybersecurity professional learning experiences for teachers. This represents another opportunity to share scholarship and loan repayment information with school system staff to distribute to students. Information can also be shared through videos and postings on MSDE's social media and web pages.

MSDE is dedicated to ensuring that students are aware of scholarship and loan repayment opportunities. MSDE will be able to leverage and explore several communication channels to implement the requirements of this legislation.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **Senate Bill 4**. Please contact Yousuf Ahmad, at 410-767-0504, or yousuf.ahmad1@maryland.gov, for any additional information.