



CYBER SECURITY
ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, INC.

Del. Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Del. Mark Chang, Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland, Inc.
1215 E Fort Ave, Suite 203
Baltimore, MD 21230

March 18, 2022

Dear Delegates McIntosh and Chang,

I urge you to support Senate Bill 4 to expand the existing Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program. On any given day, there are more than 22,000 unfilled cybersecurity jobs in Maryland. Our state and local government agencies are particularly vulnerable to this hiring challenge, and this results in serious security gaps when it comes to securing our critical infrastructure and essential services. Senate Bill 4 is a necessary step in bridging that gap.

Expanding eligibility for the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program to include both part-time and full-time students reflects the reality that cybersecurity students are often going back to school or working full-time while earning their degree. By expanding the eligibility from two years to three years for full-time students, the Program provides additional support to students who are committed to securing our public systems, at a less competitive salary than their peers who join the private sector. Senate Bill 4 would also increase the number of eligible positions to fulfill the work requirement and respond to the growing need for cybersecurity professionals in our local school systems and community colleges. Lastly, requiring MSDE to provide high school students with information about the scholarship is necessary to attract diverse students and build the cybersecurity workforce pipeline.

As a cybersecurity trade association leader, I have a strong interest in strengthening the security posture of our state, county, and local governments. By supporting and investing in this Bill, you will train and incentivize Marylanders to do this important and meaningful work.

I hope I can count on you to support this critical legislation.

Thank you,

Tasha Cornish

Executive Director