



HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

House Bill 24

**Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment
January 25, 2022**

Favorable Report

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on House Bill 24. This bill expands the existing Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program and establishes the Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Programs.

The University System of Maryland (USM) continues to meet, and exceed, the bachelor's degree production targets for achieving the State's 55% goal by expanding the number of graduates in fields critical to Maryland's economy – especially in cybersecurity and STEM. The changes this bill makes to the scholarship, including allowing both part-time and full-time students to receive the award and extending the time students are eligible for the award, acknowledges those pursuing a degree while juggling work and family. These changes will help more students take advantage of the scholarship.

The Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program would incentivize cybersecurity professionals to work for state, county, or municipal governments by providing loan repayments to supplement their compensation. This would allow USM graduates who were unaware of (or ineligible for) the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship while earning their degrees to be eligible for an incentive to remain in the field of cybersecurity in the public arena.

As a public university system in close proximity to many public entities, USM has a special role to play in preparing graduates for careers in public service. Developing the capacity for students and workers to navigate growth in key sectors - including areas such as cybersecurity - fulfills a growing need with specialized education and training. HB 24 will help more students access these programs within the USM and help them pursue careers in this important sector.

The USM urges a favorable report on House Bill 24.



About the University System of Maryland

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of 12 institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards 8 out of every 10 bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of 21 members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM’s 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country’s largest public online institution.

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