

FAVORABLE

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 753

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - CYBERSECURITY

ANTOINE ROSEMAN, CEO
RACTSOL CORP

POSITION: FAVORABLE

April 7, 2022

Chairwoman Kelley, Vice Chairman Feldman, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 753.

The Cyber Workforce Accelerator will leverage existing infrastructure in the Departments of Commerce, Education and Labor and will build on current educational programs and workforce training assets in the state. This Bill will provide the necessary resources to support the urgent and growing cybersecurity needs across Maryland.

On any given day, there are more than 22,000 unfilled cybersecurity jobs in Maryland, affecting not only our industry, but cybersecurity functions that are embedded in other industries. These vacancies create security vulnerabilities in our critical infrastructure and essential services, but we don't have applicant pools with the right skills to fill our open positions. Some hiring challenges RACTSOL has is the inability to find candidates with the Cybersecurity skills to be eligible for technical positions. RACTSOL works within the Federal and State marketplace and cannot source candidate with the right clearance and/or the right skills for a high demand and evolving workforce. There are skills gaps and people that possess these skills are overlooked because of the hiring challenges for cleared resources. There are also challenges getting cleared workforce the training. Employers like RACTSOL must work internally to help design programs for training and hands on experience. This process is tedious, is not accredited, and most importantly does not give access to a larger talent pool.

The Cybersecurity Workforce Accelerator would provide an infusion of resources to impactful training programs and will help remove barriers to build a skilled and diverse cybersecurity talent pipeline. By supporting and investing in this Bill and the Cyber Workforce Accelerator, you will train Marylanders for good paying jobs with high growth potential. Our organization urges a favorable report. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.