



**Board of Education of Howard County
Testimony Submitted to the Maryland Senate,
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 9, 2022**

**Board of Education
of Howard County**

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SB0004: FAVORABLE

Cybersecurity Scholarship Program - Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment

The Board of Education of Howard County (the Board) supports **SB0004 Cybersecurity Scholarship Program - Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment** as a forward-thinking measure to increase cybersecurity expertise available to local school systems.

SB0004 expands an existing cybersecurity scholarship program for college students to include those in part-time coursework. The bill also adds local education agencies in addition to public high schools as a field which scholarship participants can work in as a requirement for one year after receipt of their scholarship. Lastly, the bill establishes a new Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program for those employed in the cybersecurity field for state, county or local governments, as well as local education agencies.

As a dynamic field with ever-increasing demands for human capital, expertise in current technologies and threats are in a constant state of evolution. This bill would provide an opportunity for the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) to leverage a highly technical workforce for our Information Technology Office that is consistently in receipt of the most current and relevant cybersecurity education and skills. Having the ability to leverage not only recent cyber graduates, but those completing cyber certification programs, would provide the school system access to cybersecurity experts that might otherwise opt for more lucrative and/or image appealing public or private sector opportunities.

For these reasons, we urge a FAVORABLE report of SB0004 from this Committee.