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BILL NO.: Senate Bill 4

TITLE: Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment

SPONSOR: Senator Hester

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 9th, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 4 – Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment. This legislation would include eligibility for part-time students in its cybersecurity scholarships, as well as create a repayment program for cybersecurity education loans.

With cybersecurity becoming one of the fastest growing sectors, there has been an influx in students wishing to enter the field, however, high cost of courses can serve as a barrier to entry for those who wish to study cybersecurity. Prohibitive costs lead many students to take out large student loans, often times with no clear path to repay them.

By expanding scholarship eligibility to part-time students and establishing a loan repayment program, SB 4 enhances accessibility to the cybersecurity sector. By making entry into these programs conditional on future civil service, this bill would bring much-needed cybersecurity expertise back to the public sector which, during the COVID-19 pandemic, has experienced a significant increase in cyberattacks.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 4. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.