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Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair, Joint Committee on  
Cybersecurity, Information Technology  
and Biotechnology



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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**Sponsor Testimony - SB780/812 - The Cybersecurity Governance Act of 2022**

March 3, 2022

Thank you Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee for your consideration of SB780/812 - The Cybersecurity Governance Act of 2022 - which codifies roughly 20 recommendations from the Maryland Cybersecurity Council's (MCC) Report on State and Local Government Cybersecurity Capacity.

As you heard during our January 27th briefing, During the 2021 interim, the Maryland Cybersecurity Council subcommittee studied the threat posed by cybercrime to state & local governments. The subcommittee included the Maryland Department of Information Technology, The Maryland Department of Emergency Management, the University of Maryland Center for Health & Homeland Security, the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), and the Maryland Municipal League (MML). I have uploaded a copy of this report with my testimony today.

Over the past several years, Maryland has faced significant challenges as a result of cyberattacks at the state and local level. From our state agencies, to school systems, and municipal agencies, the need has never been greater to improve our state's capacity to implement and enforce IT and cybersecurity policy. This legislation addresses the decisions that must be made about threats, including who should be responsible for making them, how those decisions should be informed, and most importantly, and how they should be implemented and evaluated. It achieves these goals by:

- 1.) Codifying the roles of the State Chief Information Security Officer (SCISO) and the Maryland Cybersecurity Coordinating Council (MCCC),
- 2.) Centralizing IT and cybersecurity functions and funding under the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), which may take six months to develop and two years or so to implement,
- 3.) Establishing an advisory group to develop and oversee the implementation of a cybersecurity strategic plan,
- 4.) Requiring each agency to complete annual risk assessments and certify compliance with DoIT,

- 5.) Appropriating a consistent budget for DoIT (as opposed to the current charge-back model), and
- 6.) Streamlining the procurement process for cybersecurity and IT contracts, with increased security requirements for contractors who will have access to state databases.

Most importantly, I want to clarify that this centralization and consolidation of IT and cybersecurity systems does not mean that we're going to steal computers out of office buildings and kidnap staff: the day-to-day operations of our state agencies will still carry on as they have been. Ultimately, we envision this as a collaborative and smooth transition process. This bill is complicated, and requires additional refining to clarify drafting errors and to align it with the findings of the MCC Report, so please consider the sponsor amendments that have been offered; however, these recommendations are in line with national trends and cybersecurity best practices. Maryland's cyber governance needs to modernize and evolve as threats to our safety and information evolve. Without this legislation, we will only see the costs of inaction continue to grow. **For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable committee report .**

Sincerely,



Senator Katie Fry Hester  
Howard and Carroll Counties

