



Mohammed Choudhury

State Superintendent of Schools

BILL: Senate Bill 162 **DATE:** January 19, 2022

SUBJECT: Public Schools – Cyber Safety Guide and Training Course – Development, Implementation, and Reporting **COMMITTEE:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Information Only

CONTACT: Ary Amerikaner
410-767-0090
ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov

EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) respectfully submits this information regarding **Senate Bill 162 – Public Schools – Cyber Safety Guide and Training Course – Development, Implementation, and Reporting**, which would require the Maryland State Department of Education, the Behavioral Health Administration within the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Center for School Safety, and the Department of Information Technology to develop and publish a cyber-safety guide and online training courses for students in third through twelfth grades, parents, and all school employees who interact with students. Implementation is to occur in the 2023-2024 school year.

While the Department is supportive of the development and publication of a cybersecurity guide and online training courses, MSDE registers concerns regarding the timeline for the development and implementation of the guide and courses due to requirements in the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future that MSDE and the State Board develop new curricular standards and resources for every grade level designed to be used by local school systems to meet college and career ready standards for students.

Creation of the deliverables will be a multi-step process to ensure the content is age appropriate and engaging and that the course design and materials meet all accessibility requirements. Extending the due date for the implementation of the course to SY 2024-2025 would ensure there is adequate time to develop the course and guide effectively.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **Senate Bill 162**. Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov, for any additional information.