



MARYLAND Association of COUNTIES

**Senate Bill 754 - Local Government Cybersecurity - Coordination and Operations
(Local Cybersecurity Support Act of 2022)**

Senate Bill 780 - Cybersecurity Governance Act of 2022

Senate Bill 812 - State Government - Cybersecurity - Coordination and Governance

MACo Position: **SUPPORT
WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
and Budget and Taxation Committees

Date: March 3, 2022

From: Dominic J. Butchko

A strong partnership between the State and local governments is essential for safeguarding critical infrastructure and defending against increasingly complex cyber risks. MACo urges the General Assembly to provide a meaningful and lasting State commitment to bolster cybersecurity and prioritize cyber resilience through collaborative efforts to identify, protect against, detect, and respond to malicious cyber threats.

Hackers are increasingly targeting states and local governments with sophisticated cyberattacks. Securing government information systems is critical, as a cyber intrusion can be very disruptive, jeopardizing sensitive information, public safety, and the delivery of essential services.

MACo advocates for the State to offer additional cyber grant programs, shared service agreements, 24/7 network monitoring, real-time incident response, statewide risk assessments, and a dedicated cybersecurity support fund to help local governments upgrade IT infrastructure. This will ensure an equitable approach to cyber preparedness and resilience across the state.

Legacy systems — outdated digital software or hardware — are generally unable to interact with any newer systems or implement necessary cybersecurity measures to safeguard critical data and sensitive information. As such, MACo urges the State to prioritize updating outdated technology platforms, which is vital for reducing cybersecurity risks, enhancing service delivery, and boosting government transparency and accountability.

Rising cyber liability insurance premiums and fewer insurance carriers have left counties facing difficulty acquiring and renewing coverage by leveraging its purchasing power. MACo believes the State can provide an affordable solution to ensure local governments remain cyber resilient in times of crisis.

By dedicating needed resources and streamlining collaboration, communication, and coordination, the State can help lead local governments, school systems, and critical infrastructure toward a more cyber-secure future.

The work of the Ad Hoc Committee on State and Local Cybersecurity of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council embodied this spirit in its report. The referenced bills deserve continued stakeholder attention to coalesce behind similar principles. MACo and its member counties stand ready to collaborate to develop a cohesive statutory framework to advance these mutual state/local goals, and request a report of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** on SB 754, SB 780, and SB 812.