SB4_USM_FAV_Hogan.pdf

Uploaded by: Andy Clark

Position: FAV

![University System of Maryland logo]

SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Senate Bill 4
Cybersecurity Scholarship Program - Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program - Establishment
February 9, 2022
Patrick Hogan, Vice Chancellor, Government Relations
Favorable Report

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Senate Bill 4. This bill expands the existing Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program and establishes the Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Programs.

The University System of Maryland (USM) continues to meet, and exceed, the bachelor's degree production targets for achieving the State's 55% goal by expanding the number of graduates in fields critical to Maryland's economy – especially in cybersecurity and STEM. The changes this bill makes to the scholarship, including allowing both part-time and full-time students to receive the award and extending the time students are eligible for the award, acknowledges those pursuing a degree while juggling work and family. These changes will help more students take advantage of the scholarship.

The Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program would incentivize cybersecurity professionals to work for state, county, or municipal governments by providing loan repayments to supplement their compensation. This would allow USM graduates who were unaware of (or ineligible for) the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship while earning their degrees to be eligible for an incentive to remain in the field of cybersecurity in the public arena.

As a public university system in close proximity to many public entities, USM has a special role to play in preparing graduates for careers in public service. Developing the capacity for students and workers to navigate growth in key sectors - including areas such as cybersecurity - fulfills a growing need with specialized education and training. Senate Bill 4 will help more students access these programs within the USM and help them pursue careers in this important sector.

The USM urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 4.

About the University System of Maryland

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of 12 institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards 8 out of every 10 bachelor's degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of 21 members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM's 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country's largest public online institution.

USM Office of Government Relations - Patrick Hogan: phogan@usmd.edu

T E S T I M O N Y

February 9, 2022

Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Bill: SB 4 - Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 4, which would expand the Cybersecurity Scholarship Program and create a Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program.

Cybersecurity is a field that is ever-increasing in importance. Local governments can often be the target of a cyber attack that results in disruption of services and breach of privacy to the residents. SB 4 expands the list of employers for which students can work in order to fulfill a scholarship or loan repayment requirement. Adding municipal governments to the list not only gives the student real life experience in a local government setting but also allows municipal governments to fulfill cybersecurity needs now and prepare for the future. Expanding the pool of cybersecurity workers with local government experience benefits municipalities specifically and everyone generally.

As such, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 4 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott A. Hancock   Executive Director
Angelica Bailey   Director, Government Relations
Bill Jorch   Director, Research and Policy Analysis
Justin Fiore   Manager, Government Relations

SB 4_MACC_FAV_B.Phillips.pdf

Uploaded by: Brad Phillips

Position: FAV

SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

Submitted by
Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director
Maryland Association of Community Colleges

February 9, 2022
SB 4 – Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program - enhancement

Position: Support

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges ("MACC") representing Maryland's sixteen community colleges supports Senate Bill 4 and thanks Senator Hester for her sponsorship. Enactment of this legislation expands the current Cybersecurity Scholarship Program to permit part-time students to receive this award and to receive the award for a longer period of time. In addition, the legislation seeks to assist our institutions in obtaining trained cybersecurity personal by amending the Loan Assistance Repayment Plan to allow awardees to fulfill their service requirement by working for a community college.

Approximately seventy percent of community college students attend on a part-time basis, making the expansion of this scholarship a valuable resource. A large portion of community college students are primary caregivers with household responsibilities that do not permit them to attend a postsecondary institution on a full-time basis. Because these students are working and supporting families, they often do not qualify for need-based financial aid. Yet, it is this demographic of students that needs financial assistance to enter or continue postsecondary education. As a high demand field, cybersecurity credentials lead to high paying jobs. The expansion of this scholarship will enable many more students with limited resources to obtain cybersecurity credentials.

Between 2017 to 2020, Maryland posted 233,906 IT job openings. Senate Bill 4 seeks to fill the growing demand for Cybersecurity professionals by providing these students with incentive-based scholarships that also provides an affordable repayment plan. Senate Bill 4 provides a significant opportunity to expand equitable access to Cybersecurity training and education which will result in good paying, career opportunities within the Cybersecurity job market. This market continues to expand, especially in the government sector. Employment within this sector can change the lives of many disadvantaged students, and with better employment, comes greater tax revenue.

MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 4

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

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: February 9, 2022

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 4. This bill would incentivize cybersecurity professionals to seek employment with county government at a time when local governments are increasingly threatened with cyber-attacks and counties rely on experts to secure systems and maintain operations.

SB 4 creates a pathway for cybersecurity professionals to pursue careers with local government in two ways: by requiring that the number of years of scholarship be equivalent to time spent working in public service, and through establishing a student loan repayment assistance program for cybersecurity staff employed in local government. The bill specifies that eligible service includes employment with a local education agency, public high school, public institution of higher education, community college, or unit of state government, county government, or city or municipal government.

Furthermore, SB 4 smartly develops partnerships between high school career and technology programs and the Cybersecurity Scholarship Program, encouraging students to remain in Maryland with in-state tuition and to pursue studies in cybersecurity. Importantly, SB 4 recognizes community colleges as a critical piece of Maryland's higher education infrastructure, and therefore eligible to participate in these programs – potentially as a major contributor.

County government relies on secure and stable cyber and technological programs to successfully deliver services to the communities they serve. SB 4 helps develop cybersecurity experts by leveraging our local institutions of higher education and creating a direct track to work in the field with local governments. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 4 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

Written Testimony for SB 4 - Dr. Douglas Harrison

Uploaded by: Douglas Harrison

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 4
CYBERSECURITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – ALTERATIONS AND
MARYLAND CYBERSECURITY
LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT

DR. DOUGLAS HARRISON, DEAN, SCHOOL OF CYBERSECURITY
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS
POSITION: SUPPORT

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairwoman Kagan, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 4 this afternoon.

I am Dr. Douglas Harrison, Dean, School of Cybersecurity, at the University of Maryland Global Campus. I am testifying on behalf of the university as the administrator responsible for overseeing its cybersecurity degree and certificate programs. We support the provisions of SB 4 as additional steps to ameliorate the cybersecurity workforce needs of Maryland's public sector. For purposes of this testimony, however, we address one provision which we believe will have the greatest impact, namely, opening the Scholarship for Service Program to part-time students. We believe this change in the Program would enhance equity, serve diversity, and to the State's advantage, expand the talent pool from which it could select scholarship awardees.

First, equity. Part-time students constitute a very large proportion of the student population of the State, and we believe that they should have the same opportunity as full-time students to apply to the Scholarship for Service Program. For the fall of 2021, the University System of Maryland reported that 66,179 of its students were enrolled part-time.[1] That was 40% of USM's total Statewide student headcount.[2] For Maryland community colleges, the headcount and the percentage is even higher. In the fall of 2020, the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) reported that 75,199 credit earning students (69% of the total credit earning population) were enrolled part-time.[3] These data do not include part-time students at private-nonprofit institutions across the State. Even so, it is clear that the current Program excludes a very large number of Maryland postsecondary students.

Second, extending eligibility to part-time students would augment the effort of bringing under-represented groups into the cybersecurity field and into public service. In the case of UMGC, for

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[1] See University System of Maryland Statewide Headcount, Enrollment Student Level, and Attendance Status at https://www.usmd.edu/IRIS/DataJournal/Enrollment/?report=Headcount-by-Level-Attendance

[2] Ibid. In the fall of 2021, the part-time student headcount was 66,179 out of a total student headcount of 164,852.

[3] See 2021 MACC Databook, Enrollment, at https://mdacc.org/wp-content/uploads/1-Enrollment-2021.pdf. The Databook reports that in FY 2020, there were 75,199 part-time credit earning students against a total of 108,335 credit earning students.

example, more than 80% of its students are part time[4], more than half are women, and 43% identify as African American, Hispanic, American Indian or Pacific Islander.[5] Data suggest that this profile is not unusual across the US part-time student population in general.[6]

Finally, expanding Program eligibility to part-time students would add a large recruiting pool both rich in talent and likely to be very interested in the Program. Part-time students have characteristics that make them especially responsive to incentives that encourage them into careers like cybersecurity where market demand is high. They tend to be older, are more likely to be married than not, and are often career changers, seeking professions that will have a long trajectory over their lives. Again, UMGC is a good case study.

As mentioned, more than 80% of UMGC's students matriculate on a part-time basis. In FY 2021, the university awarded nearly half of all USM's bachelor's and master's degrees in cyber-related fields.[7] Under SB 4, some number of future graduates like these would likely be headed to work in the Maryland public sector under the terms of Scholarship for Service Program. The same could be said of part-time students graduating with cyber-related degrees from elsewhere in the USM, from private non-profit institutions, and from the State's community colleges.

In sum, expanding program eligibility to part-time students serves equity—it provides them the same opportunity as now exists for full-time students—it promotes diversity by augmenting the effort of bringing under-represented groups into cybersecurity and Maryland's public sector, and finally, it benefits the State by significantly expanding the size of the talent pool from which it can recruit promising students.

While we emphasize one provision of SB 4 in our testimony, we support the bill in its entirely and urge a favorable report. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

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[4] In USM's fall of 2021 snapshot, UMGC's ratio of part-time to full-time students was 45,251/55, 323. See the USM Statewide Headcount, Enrollment, and Attendance Status at
https://www.usmd.edu/IRIS/DataJournal/Enrollment/?report=Headcount-by-Level-Attendance

[5] See USM Statewide Headcount, Enrollment Student Level, and Attendance Status at
https://www.usmd.edu/IRIS/DataJournal/Enrollment/?report=Headcount-by-Level-Attendance and USM Statewide Headcount Enrollment Gender by Ethnicity at https://www.usmd.edu/IRIS/DataJournal/Enrollment/?report=Gender-by-Ethnicity-Semester The fall 2021 snapshot shows UMGC with a total head count of 55,323, of which 15,597 students identified as African American, 7,916 as Hispanic, 272 as American Indian, and 403 as Pacific Islander for a total of 24,188.

[6] For example, see the National Center for Educational Statistics, Student Race and Ethnicity (Figure 1) for students at two-year institutions, remembering that more than 60% of their students are part-time, at
https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/csb, and National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (Table 8, Institution and Gender) at https://nscresearchcenter.org/current-term-enrollment-estimates/fall2021_currenttermenrollment_appendix/

[7] As recorded by USM, the ratio of UMGC bachelor's and master's degrees awarded in cyber-related fields to the USM total in this category was 3,816/7,708 (49.5%). See University System of Maryland, Cybersecurity Degrees by Degree Level, Field, and Institution at https://www.usmd.edu/IRIS/DataJournal/CyberSecurity/?report=Degrees-by-Degree-Level-by-Field

2022-02-08 HB 4 (Support).pdf

Uploaded by: Hannibal Kemerer

Position: FAV

BRIAN E. FROSH
Attorney General

ELIZABETH F. HARRIS
Chief Deputy Attorney General

CAROLYN QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

410-576-6584

February 8, 2022

TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson
        Chair, Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
        Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB0004 – Unemployment Insurance – Recovery of Benefits – Refund of Payments –
        Support

       The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to favorably report HB4. If passed, Del. Watson's prefiled bill will take effect on October 1, 2022.

       House Bill 4 seeks to enact a common-sense solution to the problem of excessive claw backs of unemployment insurance benefits collected by the Department of Labor. It requires the Secretary to investigate any claimant's notice that the actual amount recovered (through a claw-back) exceeded the amount stated. It provides the Secretary of Labor 30 days to investigate these claims and requires the Secretary to refund any excessive recoveries to the claimant within 14 days of the investigation's conclusion. As a matter of fundamental fairness and good public policy, the Department of Labor should not be able to retain funds due and owing to a claimant.

       For the foregoing reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 4.

cc: Committee Members

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JOEL N. BELLER
Acting Director of Government Affairs

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG
Associate Director of Government Affairs

MIA R. GOGEL
Associate Director of Government Affairs

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.

SB 4 - MoCo_Boucher_FAV (GA 22).pdf

Uploaded by: Kathleen Boucher

Position: FAV

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550   **ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270**

SB 4   **DATE: February 9, 2022**

SPONSOR: Senator Hester

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

CONTACT PERSON: Kathleen Boucher   (kathleen.boucher@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support

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

The bill expands the existing Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program (Scholarship Program) and creates a new Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program (Loan Repayment Program). The Scholarship Program is expanded to allow a full-time student to hold an award for a maximum of 3 years, rather than 2 years, and to allow a part-time student to hold an award for a maximum of 6 years. The Office of Student Financial Assistance at the Maryland Higher Education Commission is given authority to determine prorated awards for part-time students. Currently, an award recipient is required to work for a State agency in a cybersecurity field for the same number of years that the recipient held the award. The bill allows a recipient to meet the work requirement through employment in the cybersecurity field with a county or municipal government, public high school (including teaching), or community college (including teaching). The new Loan Repayment Program will assist in the repayment of higher education loans for individuals who are employed in the cybersecurity field with the same employers who qualify under the Scholarship Program. The Office of Student Financial Assistance is required to adopt regulations governing the application process, system of prioritizing applicants, and maximum amount of loan repayment award.

This bill is an important policy initiative to help to ensure that State and local governments, school systems, and community colleges are able to recruit and retain employees who can support critically important cybersecurity functions. Montgomery County strongly supports this bill and respectfully request that the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee give the bill a favorable report.

SB4 Sponsor Testimony (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Katie Fry Hester

Position: FAV

KATIE FRY HESTER
Legislative District 9
Carroll and Howard Counties

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Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

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Chair, Joint Committee on
Cybersecurity, Information Technology
and Biotechnology

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Sponsor Testimony for SB4: Cybersecurity Scholarship Program - Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program - Establishment

February 9th, 2022

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 4, which would expand the current Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship and establish the Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program.

Over the past two years, our everyday lives have transitioned online at a faster rate than ever before, enabling us to advance our economy and culture in ways that weren't imaginable just a few decades ago. However, these advancements have also introduced new and ever-evolving threats to our critical infrastructure and personal information. Most recently, this threat has been highlighted by the MDH hack which left Marylanders without COVID-19 data during the omicron surge, unable to access their prescriptions for illnesses such as HIV, and prevented our health care professionals from completing core functions of their jobs. However, this is not the first time that a state or local agency faced a cyberattack: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Salisbury, and Leonardtown, have also been attacked within the last decade.

Our systems are vulnerable, and the ability to recruit and retain qualified staff is consistently cited as a challenge for state or local agencies. In light of this challenge, I have been working with the administration and am delighted to see additional funding for the existing Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program in the FY23 budget. While this is a good start, the state must still do more to cultivate and maintain a robust talent pipeline.

The existing Public Service Scholarship program is overly restrictive: students may only receive the scholarship for two years, must attend college full-time, and may only work for the state. These criteria do not reflect current trends in education. SB4 would address these concerns by expanding the scholarship to include part-time students, allowing students to receive the award for three years instead of two, and by adding community colleges, county governments, and municipal governments to the list of eligible public service requirement employers.

It would also establish a Loan Assistance Repayment Program, based on Maryland's own Janet L. Hoffman program. This would make it possible for a student graduating this year, who wasn't able to benefit from the scholarship, to have their loans fully or partially repaid by the state if they take a public sector IT or cybersecurity job. This additional benefit would dramatically increase the competitiveness of state and local jobs at a time when public salaries are much lower than private ones.

Both of these programs are aimed at retaining current cybersecurity professionals and developing our future workforce such that our public entities have a top-tier talent pool to draw from. In my view, these programs are essential to protect our critical infrastructure and Marylanders' data. For these reasons, **I respectfully request a favorable committee report on SB4.**

Sincerely,

Senator Katie Fry Hester
Howard and Carroll Counties

Written Testimony for SB 4 - Kevin Rittie - Favora

Uploaded by: Kevin Rittie

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 4
CYBERSECURITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – ALTERATIONS AND
MARYLAND CYBERSECURITY
LOAN ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT

KEVIN RITTIE
FOUNDER AND CEO, RevelationSCS

POSITION: SUPPORT

FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chairwoman Kagan, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 4 this afternoon.

I am a technologist and businessman that has been involved in the development and delivery of products and solutions to the energy and transportation sector of the US and many other countries around the world. Cybersecurity is a critical component of this class of systems and solutions and underpins much of the work that we do. In a post-9/11 world, I witnessed industry move from an open system perspective where data sharing and availability was paramount, back to a closed and isolated system mindset. However, the reasons for this information sharing and availability, including improved use of information, optimized processes, increased efficiencies, were still key objectives for these industries in order to improve service and control costs. As such, cybersecurity became a critical component to these industries, along with other sectors, including state and local governments, education systems, hospitals, and in actuality, everyone in a business became at risk. We saw the rise of many threats including worms, trojans, state-sponsored attacks, and most recently, ransomware. Criminal software was creating crises in many segments, putting everyday citizens at risk.

This legislation is important as it creates an incentive for students to consider the field of cybersecurity as a long-term career option. It is recognizing a two-fold need, the first being that the cybersecurity field has been acknowledged as being critically understaffed, and two, that the Maryland State government and related municipalities and agencies are suffering from the lack of professionals in this field. As a software and cybersecurity professional, it is important to note that cybersecurity is critical not only in the protection of IT infrastructure or responding to incidents, it is also a component to be incorporated into the systems and solutions being developed, integrated, or purchased by the State and used to deliver services to Maryland citizens. The fact that this bill recognizes both the scholarship need across the financial and institutional spectrum as well as the fact that many students graduate with significant debt, is important in gaining my advocacy. As a part-time adjunct professor—teaching cybersecurity at the collegiate level at a private Maryland university—and as a parent that has put three children through both private and public universities, I have witnessed firsthand the financial burden with which so many students and families struggle every day. The proposed program extensions offer students an opportunity to apply their skills in a critical area of technology, developing and improving their skills in

practical applications, all while enabling the State to hire bright and up-and-coming cybersecurity professionals for multi-year commitments. This latter is a huge benefit to the State as these new employees are incentivized to stay for a period beyond just training, enabling the State to retain their experience and improve the cybersecurity posture of the State. Furthermore, I appreciate that people that pursue technical certificates are also included in this program. By doing so, the State will benefit from not only a larger and potentially better-skilled pool of employees but may also have a higher retention rate beyond the payback periods—a win-win for both employees and State.

As such, I fully support this proposed bill and believe that it would benefit students, families, the State, regional agencies, and the Maryland citizenry by providing a means of leveraging increased cyber talent, at a reasonable cost, which will improve the cybersecurity posture of Maryland's critical IT infrastructure.

I urge a favorable report. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

SB0004_FAV_MTC_Cybersecurity Scholarship Program -

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: FAV

TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
              Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
              The Honorable Katie Fry Hester

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
              J. Steven Wise
              Danna L. Kauffman
              Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 9, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 4 – *Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 4.

The Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program provides opportunities for Maryland students to obtain scholarship support to pursue education and training in cybersecurity. Senate Bill 4 proposes several notable alterations to the program that will expand and enhance the program's effectiveness in providing support to students who wish to pursue a career in cybersecurity. The alterations include increasing the number of years a scholarship recipient may hold an award; expanding the positions that qualify for a recipient to fulfill the scholarship program's work obligation; and creating a scholarship framework for providing support to part time students. Senate Bill 4 also creates a Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program that will enable students employed in the cybersecurity field by state or local government, a local education authority, community college, or public institution of higher education to repay their loans from an institution of higher education.

Passage of Senate Bill 4 will enhance the State's support of students who are pursuing a career in cybersecurity for which there are expanding career opportunities in both the private and public sector. It also strengthens the State's workforce development initiatives to meet the increasing demand for well-educated individuals in cybersecurity, particularly in the public sector. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

Written Support

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Senate Bill 4 (Hester) Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment

Sara C. Fidler, President
sfidler@micua.org
February 9, 2022

On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the 58,000 students we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to support ***Senate Bill 4 (Hester) Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations and Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Establishment***. This bill makes changes to the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program. The bill increases the number of years a full-time student recipient may hold an award, expands the qualifying positions for a scholarship recipient to fulfill a work obligation, and establishes criteria for part–time students to be eligible for the scholarship. The bill also establishes a Loan Assistance Repayment Program for individuals employed in the cybersecurity field in specified organizations after having received a degree, registered apprenticeship, or certification in cybersecurity, and if the individual is not currently serving a work obligation under the scholarship.

Programs such as the Cybersecurity Scholarship Program help the State recruit, develop, and retain top talent in cybersecurity fields. According to the most recent data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the outlook for the job growth rate for security analysts is 33% through 2030 in the US. Expanding scholarship eligibility to part-time students pursuing degrees and certificates in cybersecurity opens a pathway for more students pursuing post-baccalaureate studies to participate in the program.

Several MICUA institutions offer programs in cybersecurity, including bachelors of science, post-baccalaureate certificates, master's degrees, post-master's certificates, and doctoral degrees. The MICUA programs include Cybersecurity, Cyber Analytics, and Cyberpsychology. Capitol Technology University received the prestigious SC Media 2020 Award for Best Cybersecurity Higher Education Program in America. During the period of 2016-2020, MICUA institutions awarded over 600 degrees in cybersecurity. Our institutions have an 82% undergraduate

retention rate, and 87% of first-time full-time freshman who first enroll at a MICUA institution graduate from that same MICUA institution, or a transfer institution within six years.

We appreciate Senator Hester's vision and the General Assembly's ongoing support for the Cybersecurity Scholarship Program. MICUA students have benefited and will continue to benefit from these investments, as they graduate from our institutions and join the State's talent pipeline in cybersecurity and other STEM fields. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Angela Sherman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, asherman@micua.org.

For these reasons, MICUA urges a favorable Committee report for Senate Bill 4.

SB0004 Howard Co BOE Testimony 020922 for EHEA - C

Uploaded by: Staff Howard County
Position: FAV

Howard County
Public School System

**Board of Education
of Howard County**

Vicky Cutroneo, *Chair*

Antonia Watts, *Vice Chair*

Christina Delmont-Small

Yun Lu, Ph.D.

Jennifer Swickard Mallo

Jolene Mosley

Chao Wu, Ph.D.

Peter J. Banyas
Student Member

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
*Superintendent
Secretary/Treasurer*

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

**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.

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Written Support, S 4.pdf

Uploaded by: Tasha Cornish

Position: FAV

Sen. Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Sen. Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland, Inc.
1215 E Fort Ave, Suite 203
Baltimore, MD 21230

February 7, 2022

Dear Senators Pinsky and Kagan,

I urge you to support Senate Bill 4 to expand the existing Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program and to establish the Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Programs. On any given day, there are more than 22,000 unfilled cybersecurity jobs in Maryland. Our state and local government agencies are particularly vulnerable to this hiring challenge, and this results in serious security gaps when it comes to securing our critical infrastructure and essential services. House Bill 24 is a necessary step in bridging that gap.

Expanding eligibility for the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program to include both part-time and full-time students reflects the reality that cybersecurity students are often going back to school or working full-time while earning their degree. By expanding the eligibility from two years to three years for full-time students, the Program provides additional support to students who are committed to securing our public systems, at a less competitive salary than their peers who join the private sector. House Bill 24 would also increase the number of eligible positions to fulfill the work requirement and respond to the growing need for cybersecurity professionals in our local school systems and community colleges. Lastly, requiring MSDE to provide high school students with information about the scholarship is necessary to attract diverse students and build the cybersecurity workforce pipeline.

The complementary Maryland Cybersecurity Loan Assistance Repayment Program that House Bill 24 would establish can incentivize cybersecurity professionals to work for state, county, or municipal governments by providing loan repayments to supplement their compensation. This can attract graduates, who were unaware of or ineligible for the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship while earning their degrees, to protect our critical infrastructure.

As a cybersecurity trade association leader, I have a strong interest in strengthening the security posture of our state, county, and local governments. By supporting and investing in this Bill, you will train and incentivize Marylanders to do this important and meaningful work.

I hope I can count on you to support this critical legislation.

Tasha Cornish
Executive Director
Cybersecurity Association of Maryland, Inc.

SB 4 - Cybersecurity Scholarship - LARP- MD -TEDCO

Uploaded by: Troy LeMaile-Stovall

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
EDUCATION, HEATH AND ENVRIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 4 –
CYBERSECURITY PRSCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM –
ALTERNATIONS AND MARYLAND CYBERSECURITY LOAN
ASSISTANCE REPAYMENT PROGRAM - ESTABLISHMENT

POSITION: SUPPORT

February 9, 2022

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) is dedicated to economic growth through the fostering of an inclusive entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem. TEDCO discovers, invests in, and helps build great Maryland based technology companies.   Since TEDCO was created in 1998, it sought to find innovative approaches to economic development.

TEDCO's Cybersecurity Investment Fund (CIF), established eight years ago, helps companies achieve early technical milestones that are critical to advancing their cybersecurity technologies towards commercialization. TEDCO recognizes the need to invest in developing cybersecurity products, as new threats appear every day. With State support of CIF, TEDCO provides financial support, mentoring and technical assistance to cybersecurity startup companies. It is an important tool in stimulating growth of promising young companies that combat today's cyber threats, create new jobs and spur growth in Maryland's innovation economy.

Senate Bill 4 expands Maryland's Cybersecurity Scholarship Program to include part-time students and the length of time students can qualify for the program. In today's world, many full-time students need more than four years to graduate and many students, for a variety of reasons, attend on a part-time basis. Thus, expanding the program in this way is aligned with evolving student needs. Senate Bill 4 also modifies the Loan Assistance Repayment Plan, that provides a public service-based, affordable repayment option to awardees by expanding the work obligation to include employment in the cybersecurity field for county and local government and/or public education institutions. Expanding the Program in this manner will enable more students to pursue cybersecurity training and education and more cybersecurity professionals to stay and work in Maryland.

As the need for cybersecurity professionals and related industry continues to grow, Senate Bill 4 helps position Maryland to meet those demands by providing greater access to cybersecurity education and training, with an incentive-based retention and repayment option. It is for these reasons that TEDCO urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 4.