

FAVORABLE

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 1202
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CYBERSECURITY - COORDINATION AND OPERATIONS (LOCAL
CYBERSECURITY SUPPORT ACT OF 2022)

TASHA CORNISH
CYBERSECURITY ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, INC.

POSITION: FAVORABLE

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

Chairwoman Pendergrass, Vice Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 1202.

This bill moves Maryland forward in meaningful ways to have a strong cybersecurity posture by capitalizing on existing knowledge and experience of Maryland State government. This codifies and fully funds the Cyber Preparedness Unit within MDEM to support local governments in their efforts to: 1.) support local governments in developing vulnerability assessments, response plans, and conducting staff training exercises, 2.) provide cybersecurity training resources for staff, 3.) maintain a real-time helpline for emergency assistance, and 4.) assist local units in implementing security best practices as developed by the state CISO. It also establishes and funds a Local Support fund for county or municipal governments to improve their cybersecurity posture. This provides much needed support to our local governments, who are working hard to protect our communities but need more guidance and resources to build strong cybersecurity programs.

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