

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary
Christian J. Miele, Deputy Secretary

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor



DATE: February 22, 2022

BILL: House Bill 419

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations Committee

POSITION: Favorable, Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to provide this letter in support of House Bill 419 State Government - Information Technology - Cybersecurity departmental legislation requested by the Department of Information Technology.

The purpose of HB419 is to codify provisions such as the Cybersecurity Coordinating Council. MDOD oversees the IT Accessibility Initiative, a team charged with improving policies and practices in state IT development and procurement for equal access to state agency information technology. Including MDOD on the council ensures that information technology (IT) accessibility is represented as a cornerstone of the State's Cybersecurity response as it develops strategies and policies for state government. The IT Accessibility Initiative team has developed ongoing inter-agency relationships focused on access across the state via evaluations of all state websites and state technology platforms, inter-agency consultations, procurement policy development and training, technical assistance focused on website and platform remediation, and ongoing, statewide IT accessibility training.

As the Cybersecurity Council seeks to establish strategies, policies, recommendations, and implement security requirements, the MDOD representative will consider the accessibility and access of these recommendations.

MDOD respectfully requests a favorable report on HB419.

If there are any questions, please contact MDOD's Director of Interagency Affairs, Elizabeth Hall, elizabeth.hall2@maryland.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty".

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary