

## **HB 1346 (State Government - Cybersecurity - Coordination and Governance)**

Testimony By

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Favorable with Amendments

Madam chair, Madam Vice Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon.

I am Greg von Lehmen, University of Maryland Global Campus, but I am here in my role as staff to the Maryland Cybersecurity Council and more specifically as a member of the Council's ad hoc committee on state and local cybersecurity.

From the standpoint of the ad hoc committee's recommendations, I support the bill with amendments.

There is much to commend the bill.

- First, it would squarely implement nineteen of the ad hoc committee's thirty-one recommendations concerning governance and State government cybersecurity. These include the
- Codifying the position of the State CISO and authorities currently established by Executive Order
- Implementing the most far-reaching recommendations that concern the centralization of IT and cybersecurity budgets, staff, and authority in the DoIT Secretary and State CISO.
- Changing the Maryland Cybersecurity Coordinating Council in a direction that moves in the direction of a "whole of state government" approach to cybersecurity and better enables the Council to exercise its functions.
- Baselining the State Executive Branch Cybersecurity against the ratio of federal civilian cyber to IT spending and to provide accountability for spending on cyber by publishing State information about IT and cybersecurity spending.
- And much more.

Second, while the bill does not incorporate the ad hoc committee's recommendations with respect to local government as clearly, it does of course include provisions that would result in assistance to political subdivisions and school boards to do risk assessments, update continuity plans, participating in regional cyber exercises, and so forth. The bill stops short in my reading of providing a dedicated cyber fund for local governments, for example, and does not recognize or leverage the fact that there already is a Cyber Preparedness Unit in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management that is beginning to assist local governments.

I would propose at least two amendments, again informed by the ad hoc committee's work.

The amendments:

- Make clear that the State CISO has the authority to direct the remediation of vulnerabilities short of directing the disconnection of a system from the network.
- With respect to local government cybersecurity, synchronize the bill's provisions with HB 1202.

In conclusion, I urge a favorable committee outcome with amendments.

Thank you.