



**SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Senate Bill 868**  
**State Government – State and Local Cybersecurity - Revisions**  
**March 14, 2023**  
**Favorable with Amendment**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 868. The bill makes broad changes to the structure of cybersecurity across the executive branch of Maryland. The University System of Maryland (USM) agrees wholeheartedly that cybersecurity is essential to the risk management of any organization. With that in mind, the USM has already developed cybersecurity policies, in keeping with this bill and approved by the Board of Regents, that are appropriate for higher education institutions. The USM cybersecurity policy is also functionally compatible with State of Maryland IT security policy, as required by MD. Education Code Ann. § 12-112 (2020) (b).

The USM also has its own cybersecurity oversight structure. At the system level, the USM has the USM Chief Information Security and Privacy Officer to oversee cybersecurity and privacy policy. The USM IT Security Council, consisting of members of each USM institution, also works together regularly and has been meeting monthly, for over 20 years, to adjust USM cybersecurity policy, share intelligence, and advise each other of best practices.

Lastly, USM institutions operate very differently than the agencies of the executive branch. While the agencies of the executive branch function like business enterprises, USM institutions function much more like small cities. USM institutions operate broad and wide-ranging education and research enterprises, covering a multitude of topic areas and types of information. USM institutions also conduct activities related to many other verticals including (but not limited to) healthcare, housing, food service, guest services, and event management. Lastly, the USM institutions all have a unique and varied educational research function that carries its own set of unique compliance and cybersecurity requirements. The varied, city-like nature of the operations of USM institutions is incompatible with many of the business enterprise related structures and policies of the executive branch.

Given that the USM already has its own cybersecurity policy and oversight structure and given that the USM operates very differently from the executive branch; the USM respectfully requests an amendment to be exempted from oversight by the Director of State Cybersecurity (Page 6 Line 12) and the other requirements called for under Senate Bill 868.

Thank you for allowing the USM to share these concerns regarding Senate Bill 868.



### **About the University System of Maryland**

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of twelve institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards eight out of every ten bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of twenty-one 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](mailto:phogan@usmd.edu)