



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF INTERAGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

David L. Maginnis
Chief Information Officer

SB 868 - State and Local Cybersecurity - Revisions

DATE: March 14, 2023
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: David Maginnis, Chief Information Officer, Frederick County Government

Thank you for your consideration of SB 868 - **State and Local Cybersecurity - Revisions**. As the Chief Information Officer and the Director of the in the Division of Interagency Information Technologies in Frederick County, I urge the committee to give SB 868 a favorable report.

SB 868 enhances state cybersecurity efforts by establishing a Director of Cybersecurity Preparedness in the Cyber Preparedness Unit of the Maryland Department of Emergency Management and directing the State Chief Information Security Officer to develop a statewide cybersecurity strategy. Importantly, the bill also bolsters coordination with local governments and offers additional support through appropriations, technical assistance, and resource management.

Over the past decade, local governments throughout the United States have increasingly become targets of cybercriminals and victims of ransomware attacks. Research published in October 2022 by Sophos showed that 58% of local government organizations were hit by ransomware in 2021, up significantly from the 2020 rate of 34%.¹ Even more troubling, only 20% of state and local government organizations were able to stop such attacks before data could be encrypted. Even here in Maryland, our state and local governments have faced increased challenges in cybersecurity. Indisputably, cybersecurity is a crucial part of disaster resilience efforts and remaining secure will require coordination and vigilance at all levels of government.

Frederick County Government is taking significant steps to improve the security of our information and technologies. SB 868 would ensure the state is better equipped to support our local efforts and improve cybersecurity throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 868. On behalf of Frederick County Government, I urge a favorable report.

Respectfully,

David L. Maginnis
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Director, Interagency Information Technology Division, Frederick County Government
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¹ [Sophos State of Ransomware and Government](#)