

FAVORABLE

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 801

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - CYBERSECURITY - CYBER MARYLAND PROGRAM

ACADEMY OF COMPUTER EDUCATION
DBA - TRAINACE
RALPH SITA, CEO/FOUNDER

POSITION: FAVORABLE

March 7, 2023

Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 801.

The Cyber Maryland Program will leverage existing infrastructure across Maryland and will build on current educational programs and workforce training assets in the state. This Bill will provide the necessary resources to support the urgent and growing cybersecurity needs across Maryland.

On any given day, there are more than 26,000 unfilled cybersecurity jobs in Maryland, affecting not only cyber and IT companies, but cybersecurity functions that are embedded in other industries. These vacancies create security vulnerabilities in our critical infrastructure and essential services, but we don't have applicant pools with the right skills to fill our open positions. TrainACE is constantly asked by potential employers to provide certified and competent cybersecurity professionals. We struggle to do this because training is still a secondary thought process and budget item for small to medium businesses. If Maryland is to succeed and become a leader in cybersecurity, Maryland MUST commit not just words, but FUNDS to make this happen. Individuals MUST be given every opportunity to pursue a path of learning that gives them the potential earnings they deserve to support their family. Do this now as time is running out to protect Maryland and the US from cyber threats - locally and globally!

Research conducted by the Cyber Maryland Program would facilitate the State's ability to make data-driven decisions. It will provide an infusion of resources to impactful training programs and will help remove barriers to build a skilled and diverse cybersecurity talent pipeline. By supporting this Bill and the Cyber Maryland Program, you will train Marylanders for good paying jobs with high growth potential. TrainACE urges a favorable report. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully, Ralph Sita - CEO/Founder - TrainACE