

FAVORABLE

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE  
EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 868  
STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY - REVISIONS

TASHA CORNISH  
ORGANIZATION

POSITION: FAVORABLE

March 7, 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 868.

The State and Local Cybersecurity - Revisions Bill provides necessary updates the comprehensive suite of cybersecurity bills that were passed last year. These bills specifically allocated funds for updating systems, created critical support for local governments within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, and provided governance guidance for state agencies.

One year later, SB 868/HB 1065 proposes revisions shaped by implementation lessons, to include:

- Updating the Modernize Maryland Commission composition to include additional representatives outside of government who have key expertise in cybersecurity and digital transformation. We know from our representation on the Commission that the group will benefit from additional industry professionals.
- Codifying positions within the Department of Information Technology and the Department of Emergency Management to implement the bills.
- Updating expectations around cybersecurity preparedness for local governments and a statewide cybersecurity strategy to be implemented by the Department of Information and Technology.

These revisions facilitate an efficient and effective implementation plan to protect our state's critical infrastructure and essential services. We thank the Bill sponsors for recognizing the strengths of CAMI and our members to drive change in Maryland. Our organization urges a favorable report. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.