



House Bill 1065

State and Local Cybersecurity - Revisions

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health and Government Operations
Committee

Date: March 8, 2023

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1065. This bill bolsters the partnership between the State and local governments to safeguard critical infrastructure and defend against increasingly complex malicious cyber threats.

Hackers are increasingly targeting state and local governments with sophisticated cyberattacks. Cyber intrusions can be disruptive, jeopardizing sensitive information, public safety, and other essential services. As such, the State and local governments must work in partnership to secure government information systems and prioritize cyber resilience through collaborative efforts to identify, protect against, detect, and respond to threats against critical infrastructure.

This bill boosts resources for the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to provide technical assistance, coordinate resources, and help improve local government cybersecurity and preparedness. In addition, the bill requires the Maryland Department of Information Technology to develop and maintain a statewide cybersecurity strategy and develop guidance on consistent cybersecurity strategies for local governments and school systems.

Furthermore, the bill clarifies that the State is responsible for the costs of implementing the statewide cybersecurity strategy – without the need to operate a chargeback model for cybersecurity services provided to local governments. The bill also expressly prohibits the State from imposing a fine, restricting funding, or penalizing a local government for information in mandated cybersecurity incident reports.

HB 1065 will help lead local governments, school systems, and critical infrastructure toward a more cyber-secure future by dedicating needed resources and streamlining collaboration, communication, and coordination.

Accordingly, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1065.