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Testimony in Support of

**HB 0130, “Election Law – Foreign Manufacture of Election Systems –
Notification of Contract”**

Sponsor: Delegate Samuel Rosenberg

House Ways and Means, 1 p.m. January 31, 2023

Honorable Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today in support of House Bill 130 pertaining to election law.

My name is Cyril Draffin. I am a Project Advisor on cybersecurity, and serve as a member of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council.

The state needs its elections to be recognized as fair, with accurate and valid election results. We do not want uncertainty because of possible foreign interference in the election software and hardware used by Maryland.

Apparently in the past Maryland Board of Elections have purchased equipment from companies with Russian affiliations. That is a cause for concern, because foreign governments such as Russia and China would like to disrupt the U.S. elections process for their own benefit.

HB 130 is a straightforward way to address this issue of foreign ownership on influence over Maryland election systems. There may be some complexity in determining the original manufacturer of semiconductor components used in election equipment, but there should not be ambiguity on the ownership of the systems integrator and software developers for election systems used in Maryland.

There are other election security issues that could be addressed, such as Maryland’s absentee ballot system, but they could be separately addressed in future legislation.

Because of the need for improved election security, I encourage a favorable report on House Bill 130, and the committee’s continued attention to election cybersecurity. Thank you once again for the opportunity to give testimony today.