

As a long-time executive in the cybersecurity industry, I endorse the proposal to create a Data Security Committee within the Maryland state legislature. The rampant incidents of data theft and ransomware attacks targeting municipalities, schools, hospitals, and various other sectors within the state underscore the urgent need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to data security.

These attacks not only disrupt essential services but also compromise sensitive information, eroding public trust and jeopardizing the well-being of communities. The consequences of such breaches extend far beyond financial losses, impacting the state's ability to deliver critical services, safeguard personal data, and maintain public safety.

By establishing a Data Security Committee, the state can harness the expertise of cybersecurity professionals, government officials, and industry stakeholders to develop and implement proactive strategies to mitigate cyber threats effectively. This committee would serve as a centralized authority responsible for assessing risks, establishing best practices, and fostering collaboration among various entities to strengthen the state's overall cybersecurity posture.

Furthermore, a dedicated committee can facilitate the dissemination of vital resources, training programs, and support mechanisms to empower organizations at all levels to enhance their resilience against cyber threats. By prioritizing data security and investing in proactive measures, we can better safeguard our infrastructure, protect citizens' privacy, and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of essential services.

In conclusion, I urge the state legislature to pass this bill and establish a Data Security Committee. Together, we can proactively address the evolving threat landscape and safeguard the digital assets that underpin the state's prosperity and well-being. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.