

# **Committee Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bryan Orme

Position: FAV

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.

**SB0692\_MACC\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Drew Jabin

Position: FAV

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
February 29, 2024

**SB 692 - Cybersecurity - Workgroup to Study Data Security - Establishment**

**Position: Favorable**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 692**, which establishes the Workgroup to Study Data Security. This Workgroup will examine data protections in Maryland and how to strengthen them.

Maryland's community colleges stand ready to support the state's strategic goals in addressing this important issue and appreciate having a seat on the Workgroup. Community colleges play a crucial role in workforce development, preparing students for careers in various fields, including cybersecurity. MACC's involvement with this Workgroup will align recommendations with the skills and training most needed in the workforce.

Community college participation ensures that the recommendations and strategies developed by the workgroup are relevant and aligned with industry standards and workforce needs. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 692**.

For questions, please contact Brad Phillips ([bphillips@mdacc.org](mailto:bphillips@mdacc.org)) or Drew Jabin ([djabin@mdacc.org](mailto:djabin@mdacc.org)).

**RJR-(Varonis) SB692 Letter (SUPPORT)(2024) (FINAL)**

Uploaded by: Jason Bonasera

Position: FAV



Senator Brian Feldman, Chair  
Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice-Chair  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: *Senate Bill 692: Cybersecurity - Workgroup to Study Data Security – Establishment – SUPPORT***

**February 29, 2024**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members:

On behalf of Varonis Systems, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support to Senate Bill 692, entitled: *Cybersecurity - Workgroup to Study Data Security*.

What is data security and why is important for our state government? First, data security is a series of processes and practices designed to protect the information stored within critical information technology (IT) ecosystems from unauthorized access for both private sector companies and organizations, as well, as our state and local government infrastructures. Effective data security adopts a set of controls, applications, and techniques that identify the importance of various datasets, applies controls to ensure least-privilege access and monitoring for threats.

Data security is critical to public and private sector organizations for a variety of reasons. While there is not a “silver bullet” for stopping cyber-attacks, data security is one of most critical aspects of a mature cybersecurity program for evaluating threats and reducing the risk associated with data storage and handling. Data security isn’t simply a one-off project, it must be viewed as an ongoing endeavor and should be tackled from all angles. By understanding what data security is — and the measures you can take to improve it — you’ll minimize the risk of ransomware attacks, costly data breaches, or unintended data loss.

For Maryland, we have witnessed multiple cyber/ data incidents, over the years, that have crippled our state and local government and educational systems resulting in substantial costs and compromised data. In 2022, state lawmakers enacted several critical pieces of legislation that significantly advanced the state’s cybersecurity activities for many years. While the State continues to make laudable progress in advancing legislative policy on cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, similar discussions or actions surrounding data security have been noticeably underwhelming.

With the series of unfortunate examples of attacks in cyberattacks in the State within that last five to ten years, Maryland can’t afford to delay these conversations surrounding data security any longer. Moreover, as the State continues its multi-million-dollar investments into modernizing its IT legacy systems, how is Maryland’s departments/agencies ensuring that this sensitive data is secured

through this migration progress and beyond? This is why the enactment of Senate Bill 692 is so critical for Maryland's future.

As written, Senate Bill 692 establishes a workgroup to study data security and data protection standards, identify existing standards that would best be assimilated by State agencies, and develop recommendations on and assess certain fiscal impacts. The workgroup will be required to submit an interim report by December 1, 2024, and a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by June 30, 2025.

Discussions surrounding data security maybe occurring internally within certain state departments. However, the enactment of this legislation will bring an inclusive cross-section of both private industry stakeholders, along with various state and local representatives, to the conversation "table" to fully examine this topic and how best to guide the state to develop (and adopt) security standards throughout its departments/agencies.

It is for these reasons that Varonis supports the passage of Senate Bill 692 and urges this committee to give this legislation a FAVORABLE report.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,



Jason Bonasera  
Varonis Systems, Inc.

# **SB0692\_FAV\_MTC\_Cybersecurity - WG to Study Data Se**

Uploaded by: Drew Vetter

Position: FWA





# MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

**TO:** The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
The Honorable J.B. Jennings

**FROM:** Andrew G. Vetter  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000

**DATE:** February 29, 2024

**RE:** **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 692 – *Cybersecurity – Workgroup to Study Data Security – Establishment*

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The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential, making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support with amendment** for Senate Bill 692.

This bill establishes a Workgroup to Study Data Security to examine data protection standards in other states, identify standards for State agencies, and to make recommendations on cybersecurity issues. The MTC is supportive of pulling together a diverse group of stakeholders, internal and external to State government, to look at the ever-evolving challenge of cybersecurity. We appreciate that the bill sponsor has included stakeholders from the private sector on the workgroup established under this bill. However, as the State’s largest association representing technology companies, the Maryland Tech Council respectfully requests inclusion on this workgroup. While the workgroup will primarily be focused on policies and practices internal to State government, there may be downstream impacts on private sector companies that may partner with State agencies on cybersecurity work. The MTC believes it can help inform this work by selecting from the most suitable voices in our membership to be part of this important conversation. We request that the following language be added to the bill:

“ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL, DESIGNATED BY THE CEO OF THE MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL.”

Thank you for the consideration.

# **Senate Bill 692 - DoIT Written Testimony.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Patrick Mulford

Position: INFO



Wes Moore | Governor  
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor  
Katie Savage | Secretary

**TO:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
**FROM:** Department of Information Technology  
**RE:** Senate Bill 692 - Cybersecurity - Workgroup to Study Data Security - Establishment  
**DATE:** February 28, 2024  
**POSITION:** Information

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The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Feldman,

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) has some concerns with Senate Bill 692 - Cybersecurity - Workgroup to Study Data Security - Establishment. The bill establishes the Workgroup to Study Data Security staffed by the Office of the Governor to examine data protection standards in other states and identify existing standards for State agencies. DoIT believes that the goals of the workgroup are already being done by the Maryland Cybersecurity Coordinating Council and the Maryland Cybersecurity Council as well as the Office Of Security Management in coordination with the Chief Privacy Officer (CPO) and Chief Data Officer (CDO) currently. The SCISO, CPO and CDO are already identifying existing data security standards that would best be assimilated by State agencies, and developing recommendations on and assessing fiscal impacts of data security practices that are listed in the bill.

This working group would also be duplicative because the Office of Security Management under DoIT in coordination with the Maryland Cybersecurity Coordinating Council develops and maintains information technology (IT) security policies, standards, and guidance documents for the Executive Branch which are consistent with best practices.

DoIT also believes that studying standards and best practices would be done in a more efficient and effective manner by a University or a much smaller workgroup that does not have over 20 individuals on it. We believe that data security practices range from organization to organization and would much better be handled at each level of Government rather than trying to be studied as one overarching practice.

Best,



Wes Moore | Governor  
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor  
Katie Savage | Secretary

Katie Olson Savage  
Secretary  
Department of Information Technology