



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 871 - Department of the Environment - Community Water and Sewerage Systems - Cybersecurity Planning and Assessments
DATE: February 27, 2025
POSITION: Support with Amendments

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) supports Senate Bill 871 - Department of the Environment - Community Water and Sewerage Systems - Cybersecurity Planning and Assessments with amendments. This bill aims to strengthen Maryland's water and wastewater infrastructure against cyber threats through regulatory oversight, training, and enhanced security measures.

DoIT supports SB 871 with amendments and is fully aligned with the amendments put forth by the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM). We respectfully request that all proposed amendments be incorporated into the final legislation to ensure a comprehensive and effective implementation of the bill's objectives. Specifically, DoIT has the following amendment recommendations:

- We recommend that the cybersecurity standards referenced in the bill align with the existing State Minimum Cybersecurity Standards, rather than adopting independent criteria that may cause inconsistencies in regulatory compliance.
- We propose that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) be responsible for collecting cybersecurity compliance certifications from community water and sewerage systems, as this function does not require direct cybersecurity expertise.
- The requirement for DoIT to analyze and report on cybersecurity technology and policies should be reconsidered, given that without additional investment in oversight, such reporting may not provide meaningful insights into security improvements.
- The bill should streamline cybersecurity incident reporting requirements to avoid



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conflicting language across sections. We suggest that all reporting be aligned under a single, clear directive referencing DoIT's established guidance.

DoIT stands ready to support the implementation of SB 871; however, it is important to recognize that successful execution of this program will require additional resources. Specifically, we estimate that at least **\$225,000 per fiscal year** will be necessary to hire an expert in the field to properly manage and oversee the cybersecurity initiatives outlined in the bill. Without this dedicated expertise, the ability to provide meaningful oversight and assistance to community water and sewerage systems may be significantly hindered.

Once again, we appreciate your leadership and commitment to strengthening Maryland's cybersecurity posture. We urge the adoption of our amendments, as well as those proposed by MDE and MDEM, to ensure the effectiveness of SB 871. We look forward to continued collaboration in addressing

Best,

Melissa Leaman
Acting Secretary
Department of Information Technology