

Senate Bill 244 - DoIT Written Testimony.docx.pdf

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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 244 - State Government - Information Technology - Cybersecurity Revisions
DATE: January 16, 2025
POSITION: Support

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 244 - State Government - Information Technology - Cybersecurity Revisions. This is a clarification bill. It makes changes to Md. Code, State Finance & Procurement §3.5 -2A-04 for the purpose of clarifying the authority of the State Chief Information Security Officer with respect to cybersecurity threats and networkMaryland. This bill revises certain obligations of the Office of Security Management regarding support to local government entities with assessments and providing local governments with the necessary tools to successfully complete these assessments.

This bill makes necessary clarifications regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Information Technology and the Department of Emergency Management with respect to cybersecurity services and support, based on the areas of expertise of each department, such as planning and exercising versus technical assessments and controls guidance.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Information Technology respectfully requests a favorable/ unfavorable report on Senate Bill 244.

Best,

Katie Olson Savage
Secretary
Department of Information Technology

SB 244 Yelin 2025 Letter of Information.pdf

Uploaded by: Ben Yelin

Position: INFO



January 14, 2025

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee –

My name is Ben Yelin, and I am the Director for Public Policy & External Affairs at the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security. I was also the co-chair of the 2021 ad hoc subcommittee of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council, which wrote a report with recommendations on state and local cybersecurity in Maryland. The report informed much of the cybersecurity policy legislation that passed during the 2022 session.

SB244 is a Department of Information Technology (DoIT) departmental bill making a series of changes to the 2022 cybersecurity legislative package. While most of the changes seem reasonable, and generally concern assigning responsibilities between the Office of Security Management at DoIT and the Cyber Preparedness Unit at MDEM, there is one provision that is problematic, in my view. The bill removes a requirement that the Office of Security Management (OSM) annually publish the percentage of the state IT budget that is dedicated to cybersecurity. Including that data point was one of the recommendations of the 2021 State and Local Cybersecurity Report drafted by the ad hoc committee of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council.¹

Including the percentage of the IT budget used on cybersecurity is both a transparency measure, as it gives stakeholders an understanding of the Department's current priorities, and an important planning tool. If the State Government wants to invest in cybersecurity, it should have data on how much the Department is currently spending. The Federal Government and many state governments include this number in required annual reports, making clear that it is a best practice.

As a co-drafter of that 2021 report, I hope that the committee will inquire about the reason for repealing this provision in the proposed bill, and that the committee can find a way to amend the bill to reinstate this reporting requirement.

Ben Yelin
Director, Public Policy & External Affairs
University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security

¹ See, <https://www.umgc.edu/content/dam/umgc/documents/upload/maryland-state-and-local-government-cybersecurity-analysis-and-recommendations.pdf>, Recommendation 19, p. 26



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