



House Bill 235

State Government - Information Technology - Cybersecurity Revisions

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health and Government Operations
Committee

Date: February 4, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 235. This bill strengthens local government cybersecurity by providing critical resources and collaboration tools for conducting vulnerability and cyber assessments. This legislation enhances preparedness and aligns with shared priorities of protecting public services and data by equipping counties with best practices, training, and response strategies.

As cyber threats grow more sophisticated, local governments remain a primary and lucrative target for attacks that could compromise essential services, sensitive data, and public safety. Strengthening county-level cybersecurity infrastructure is vital to maintaining safe and resilient communities. HB 235 directly addresses this need by ensuring local governments can access the necessary resources and guidance to assess vulnerabilities and enhance their cybersecurity posture.

This bill encourages greater collaboration between state and local entities, ensuring that counties are not left to navigate these complex threats alone. By providing structured support for cybersecurity assessments, HB 235 enables counties to take proactive measures to protect critical systems and services.

For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 235.