



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

TO: House Health and Government Operations Committee
FROM: Department of Information Technology
RE: House Bill 1309 - Cybersecurity - Standards, Compliance, and Audits - Alterations
DATE: March 1, 2025
POSITION: Letter of Information

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
House Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk,

I am writing to provide information and request amendments to House Bill 1309 concerning cybersecurity standards, compliance, and audits for local school systems. While the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) strongly supports strengthening cybersecurity efforts, we believe the following amendments would improve the bill's operational feasibility while ensuring robust cybersecurity protections:

1. Amendment to 5-213(E)(1)

- a. Modify the language to specify that **"Each county board shall provide sufficient cybersecurity staffing."**
- b. This amendment ensures that school systems allocate appropriate resources to cybersecurity without over-relying on external determinations.

1. Amendment to 3.5-405(C)

- a. Require DoIT to assign at least three Information Security Officers (ISOs) to support local school systems.
- b. Include a provision in the Governor's FY 26 allowance for \$750,000 to fund these three ISO roles.
- c. This ensures that local school systems receive dedicated cybersecurity expertise while securing the necessary financial support.

2. Amendment to 3.5-405(D) – Strike Language

- a. Remove the requirement: **"On or before June 30, 2026, and each June 30 every 2 years thereafter, each local school system shall certify to the Office**



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of Security Management compliance with the State Minimum Cybersecurity Standards.”

- b. This requirement is duplicative of 5-213(F)(2), which already mandates reporting to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

These amendments will ensure that HB 1309 remains both effective and feasible by addressing cybersecurity needs without overburdening local education agencies or duplicating existing requirements. We appreciate the committee’s consideration and welcome further collaboration to refine this legislation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further discussion.

Best,

Melissa Leaman
Acting Secretary
Department of Information Technology