



House Bill 82

Cyber Maryland Program - 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 82. This bill enhances the Cyber Maryland Program by expanding eligibility for funding to include local governments, local economic development entities, and local workforce boards. This expansion provides counties with essential tools to strengthen cybersecurity workforce development and address the pressing need for a skilled and resilient cybersecurity workforce.

As cyber threats continue to evolve in sophistication, local governments remain key targets for hackers seeking to disrupt essential services, compromise sensitive data, and jeopardize public safety. Strengthening local cybersecurity infrastructure and workforce capacity is critical to maintaining safe and secure communities across Maryland. HB 82 addresses this issue by providing additional resources and support to counties, ensuring they can actively participate in the statewide effort to enhance cybersecurity readiness and resilience.

This bill expands funding access by enabling local governments and regional entities to directly benefit from grants that were previously limited to schools, employers, and nonprofit organizations. By including workforce boards and economic development entities, the legislation empowers counties to develop and implement customized cybersecurity programs that align with their specific needs and priorities. Furthermore, HB 82 encourages greater collaboration between the State, local governments, and other key stakeholders, fostering a unified and effective approach to workforce development and cyber resilience.

HB 82 ensures that Maryland's local governments are equipped to safeguard critical systems and services while building a pipeline of skilled cybersecurity professionals ready to meet future challenges. By broadening access to resources under the Cyber Maryland Program, this bill supports the counties' vital role in maintaining a secure digital infrastructure.

For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 82.