

House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 4, 2025

HB 82 – Cyber Maryland Program – Revisions**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 82**. This bill enhances the Cyber Maryland Program by transferring its oversight to the Maryland Department of Labor and refines its structure better to meet the state's evolving workforce and cybersecurity needs.

Maryland's community colleges are pivotal in building the state's workforce, especially in critical industries like cybersecurity. Our institutions serve as accessible, affordable pathways for Marylanders to gain the skills and credentials needed to succeed in this growing and dynamic field. Through initiatives like the Cyber Workforce Accelerator Program, Maryland's community colleges are working to close workforce gaps by preparing students for high-demand cybersecurity careers, supporting the state's economic development priorities, and ensuring that Maryland remains a leader in this critical sector.

Cybersecurity is not only a cornerstone of Maryland's economy but also vital to its future. Investments in cybersecurity training and education will position the state as a national leader in innovation while addressing workforce shortages that threaten the sector's growth. By fostering collaboration between educational institutions, government, and private industry, this legislation will help strengthen Maryland's cybersecurity ecosystem and its capacity to meet current and future challenges.

Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 82**.

Please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org) with questions.