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LETTER OF INFORMATION - HB 333
Cybersecurity - Healthcare Ecosystem
Finance
Hearing Date: 10 MAR 2025

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes to **provide information on HB 333 - Cybersecurity - Healthcare Ecosystem**. The bill requires the Department of Emergency Management to provide guidance to the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Maryland Insurance Administration regarding the implementation and monitoring of cybersecurity regulatory standards for healthcare ecosystem entities. It also enables MDEM to convene a workgroup to review cybersecurity practices, threats, and emerging issues affecting the healthcare ecosystem, though it does not require MDEM to do so.

The Department of Emergency Management is an all-hazards emergency management agency which is responsible for preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating risk for all hazards and threats facing Maryland. The Cyber Preparedness Unit, established by law in 2022, is authorized to support local governments in planning, training, and exercises related to cybersecurity. The Department also provides response coordination for cyber attack events at the request of local governments or state agencies, or at the direction of the Secretary or Governor. The Department has not typically provided technical interpretation or guidance as it relates to cybersecurity regulations, and has not typically provided direct support to private or nonprofit entities, including healthcare ecosystem entities. As such, MDEM does not have healthcare cybersecurity expertise or regulatory implementation experience. This bill would broaden MDEM's scope, and we have submitted a fiscal note to reflect this expansion.

The bill language is also unclear regarding the intent of the workgroup. MDEM anticipates requiring contractual support for any workgroups convened surrounding healthcare cybersecurity best practices, and has reflected that in the submitted fiscal note.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison:
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