



The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB 1468
Cyber Maryland Program - Revisions
Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes
March 10, 2025

What this bill does

This bill transfers the Cyber Maryland Program and Cyber Maryland Fund from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) to the Maryland Department of Labor. This bill makes some revisions to the awards made by the Cyber Maryland Program, and alters the purposes for which the Cyber Maryland Fund May be used.

Why this bill matters

There are many jobs available and unfilled in our region for cybersecurity professionals. The [2024 report conducted by Lightcast in collaboration with the TEDCO and the Cyber Maryland Board](#) revealed that the Maryland/DC region has one of the highest demands for cybersecurity professionals in the country. Between December 2023 and January 2024, there were 9,781 cybersecurity job openings in the area.¹

At the same time our region faces one of the nation's most significant talent shortages, with a gap of 6,513 unfilled positions.² As cyber threats continue to escalate, strengthening our cybersecurity workforce is critical to protecting personal information and ensuring digital security. Moreover, given the high demand for cybersecurity professionals, this sector presents a significant opportunity for economic growth and workforce development in Maryland.

¹ Cybersecurity Workforce Analysis & Strategy
<https://www.tedcomd.com/sites/default/files/2024-05/TEDCO%20Cyber%20Maryland%20-%20Cybersecurity%20Workforce%20Strategy%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf> , page 13.

² Cybersecurity Workforce Analysis & Strategy
<https://www.tedcomd.com/sites/default/files/2024-05/TEDCO%20Cyber%20Maryland%20-%20Cybersecurity%20Workforce%20Strategy%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf> , page 17.

Where we are

The Cyber Maryland Board and the Governor's Workforce Development Board developed four fundamental goals aimed at closing the workforce gap for employers and expanding economic opportunity for Marylanders in the cybersecurity field.

These goals include:

- 1) Equipping every Marylander with foundational skills to grow the pipeline of potential cyber talent
- 2) Transforming postsecondary cybersecurity education to align with industry needs
- 3) Expanding new pathways into cybersecurity careers beyond traditional higher education
- 4) Strengthening federal, state and local governments cybersecurity workforce

Why you should vote for this bill

This bill addresses each of the four fundamental goals identified by the Cyber Maryland Board and the Governor's Workforce Development Board.

Specifically, HB 1468 will:

- Transfer the Cyber Maryland Program from TEDCO to the Department of Labor
- Expand the membership of the Cyber Maryland Board to encourage diversity among board members and set term restrictions for board members
- Require performance metrics to be included in the annual report of the Cyber Maryland Program
- Allocate the funding in the Governor's budget to the Cyber Maryland Fund to provide grants, and expanding and clarifying the eligibility criteria for grant recipients to ensure the funding addresses the most urgent priorities identified in the Cybersecurity Workforce Strategy Report.

Moving the Cyber Maryland Program will allow the Department of Labor to utilize existing resources and grants to better accomplish the goals of the Program. This version of the bill is strong because it clarifies and focuses how the state's resources will be spent. With this legislation, we are taking a major step towards equipping Marylanders with the skills needed to enter the cybersecurity field and meet the growing workforce demand in our state.

I ask for a favorable report. Thank you.