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HB376 - Maryland Cybersecurity Council - Membership - Alterations
House Health and Government Operations Committee
February 4, 2025
Favorable With Amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 376. My name is Tasha Cornish, and I represent the Cybersecurity Association, Inc. (CA), a statewide, nonprofit 501(c)(6) organization dedicated to the growth and success of Maryland's cybersecurity industry. Established in 2015, CA represents over 600 businesses ranging from Fortune 500 companies to independent operators, collectively employing nearly 100,000 Marylanders.

House Bill 376 proposes changes to the appointing authority of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council. We commend this effort to strengthen the Council's representation and effectiveness in addressing critical cybersecurity challenges. In light of Maryland's status as a global leader in cybersecurity, it is vital that the Council reflects the full diversity and expertise of the state's cybersecurity ecosystem.

CA respectfully requests an amendment to HB 376 to include the Cybersecurity Association, Inc., as a member of the Council, in a manner similar to the Maryland Tech Council. CA's inclusion will ensure representation of the broad spectrum of cybersecurity businesses in Maryland, from large firms to small and emerging enterprises. Our deep ties to the industry, educational institutions, and policymakers uniquely position us to contribute valuable insights and foster collaboration within the Council.

We believe that CA's membership on the Council will enhance its ability to achieve its mission of advising the state on cybersecurity policy, fostering public-private partnerships, and advancing workforce development. Including CA will also align with the Council's commitment to leveraging Maryland's robust cybersecurity ecosystem to address emerging threats and seize new opportunities.

Proposed Amendment

We propose adding the following language to the membership provisions of HB 376:

“(8) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CYBERSECURITY ASSOCIATION, INC.,
APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.”

This amendment mirrors the representation currently afforded to the Maryland Tech Council and reflects CA's standing as a key stakeholder in Maryland's cybersecurity community.

Conclusion

In conclusion, CA strongly supports the goals of House Bill 376 and respectfully urges the Committee to adopt this amendment to ensure the Maryland Cybersecurity Council benefits from the diverse and comprehensive expertise of Maryland's cybersecurity sector.

Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.