



HB1468 – Cyber Maryland Program - Revisions
House Health and Government Operations Committee
March 10, 2025
Favorable With Amendment

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyck and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Tasha Cornish, and I am writing on behalf of the Cybersecurity Association, Inc. (CA), a nonprofit 501(c)(6) organization dedicated to strengthening Maryland's cybersecurity industry. Our association represents over 600 businesses ranging from small enterprises to large corporations employing nearly 100,000 Marylanders. We appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony in favorable support of House Bill 1468, which seeks to revise the Cyber Maryland Program to enhance cybersecurity workforce development and industry support across the state.

Support for the Transfer and Expansion of the Cyber Maryland Program

The Cybersecurity Association supports HB1468. The program's transfer to the Department of Labor is a positive step in creating a more robust cyber workforce by aligning the program with a more appropriate agency.

While we support these critical enhancements, we recognize that expanding the Cyber Maryland Program will require adequate funding and resources to be successful. The bill proposes using unused balances from existing programs to fund these initiatives, but additional state appropriations may be needed to fully implement the program's expanded scope.

To address this, we strongly support the inclusion of the below amendment to Section 3 in HB1468, which ensures that any unencumbered funds can be redirected toward initiatives that strengthen Maryland's cybersecurity workforce and industry. This provision establishes a structured approach for reallocating funds that remain unspent by March 30, 2026, ensuring that these resources continue to serve the intended purpose of advancing cybersecurity education, training, and business development in the state. The amendment language in Section 3 provides the necessary framework for this reallocation, as follows:

Ensuring Feasible Implementation

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SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

Insert after (B)

(1) Beginning on March 31 of each fiscal year, any funds that have not been encumbered for the specified purposes may be reallocated by the Cyber Maryland Board to any of the following purposes:

(i) Competitive grants and contracts to support cybersecurity workforce initiatives, training programs, and education partnerships;

(ii) Research and development efforts to advance cybersecurity innovation and technology within Maryland;

(iii) Support for small and medium-sized cybersecurity businesses, including funding to enhance workforce recruitment and retention;

(iv) Outreach and engagement programs designed to expand cybersecurity workforce participation, particularly among underserved and underrepresented communities; AND

(v) Any other programmatic purpose within the scope of the Cyber Maryland Program that aligns with the workforce development and industry support goals set forth in this Act.

(2) The Maryland Department of Labor shall submit an annual report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly detailing any reallocation of funds under this section. The report shall be submitted on or before December 1 of each year and shall include:

(i) The amount reallocated;

(ii) The purposes for which the funds were used; AND

(iii) The expected impact of such reallocation.

(C) This section shall take effect upon the enactment of this Act and shall remain in effect unless otherwise modified by the General Assembly.

Conclusion

HB1468 is a strategic step toward strengthening Maryland's cybersecurity workforce and industry competitiveness. The Cybersecurity Association fully supports this legislation and encourages the General Assembly to provide the necessary funding and resources to ensure its

success. The inclusion of Section 3 will provide much-needed flexibility to ensure the effective use of allocated funds to further Maryland's cybersecurity workforce and industry development.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to advancing Maryland's cybersecurity landscape. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

