



House Bill 209

*State Finance and Procurement - Local Cybersecurity Preparedness
and Response Plan and Assessment - Repeal*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health and Government Operations
Committee

Date: February 4, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 209, which repeals a duplicative cybersecurity planning requirement for county governments, local school systems, and local health departments.

As cyber threats continue to evolve in complexity and sophistication, local governments must remain agile and well-coordinated in their cybersecurity efforts. Ensuring the safety and security of digital infrastructure is a top priority for counties, but unnecessary requirements can hinder rather than help these efforts.

Under current law, §3.5–405 of the State Finance and Procurement article requires many local entities to consult with local emergency managers in developing or updating a cybersecurity preparedness and response plan. However, this mandate is redundant, as other provisions in state law already require appropriate cybersecurity planning and response efforts by the same actors. Counties did not request this requirement, and its removal will help clarify cybersecurity responsibilities while avoiding conflicting or unnecessary regulatory burdens.

This technical but needed repeal ensures that county governments and local agencies can focus on effective cybersecurity measures without the confusion of overlapping requirements. MACo appreciates the sponsor and the Department for bringing this bill to improve clarity in cybersecurity planning efforts. By eliminating this provision, HB 209 allows counties to streamline resources and cybersecurity efforts without compromising security readiness.

For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 209.