



House Bill 1468

Cyber Maryland Program - Revisions

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Health and Government Operations Committee

Date: March 10, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1468, which expands and strengthens the Cyber Maryland Program by increasing funding eligibility and ensuring sustained investment in Maryland's cybersecurity workforce and infrastructure.

Beginning in FY 2026, the Cyber Maryland Program will award competitive grants and contracts for information technology and operational technology, reinforcing the State's commitment to cybersecurity workforce development and economic growth. HB 1468 clarifies in law that local governments, workforce development boards, and economic development entities can access program funds. The bill ensures sustained and increased investment by allowing the Governor to include a \$3 million appropriation for FY 2026 and requiring an annual appropriation in the budget beginning in FY 2027.

By strengthening workforce development, HB 1468 incorporates talent improvement strategies, such as those leveraging the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Talent Pipeline Management approach, to ensure Maryland's cybersecurity workforce is well-prepared to meet evolving industry needs. Additionally, HB 1468 reallocates unspent funds from multiple workforce and cybersecurity programs, including the Cybersecurity Investment Tax Credit, the Maryland Technology Internship Program, and the Cyber Public Service Scholarship, into the Cyber Maryland Program to maximize effectiveness.

As cyber threats continue to grow in sophistication and scale, local governments remain critical in safeguarding essential services and public safety. By expanding access to resources and ensuring sustainable funding, HB 1468 empowers counties to develop a robust cybersecurity workforce and enhance digital resilience across Maryland.

For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1468.