



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 82 - CYBER MARYLAND PROGRAM - REVISIONS

**FEBRUARY 4, 2025
SUPPORT**

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) is dedicated to economic growth through the fostering of an inclusive entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem. TEDCO discovers, invests in, and helps build great Maryland-based technology companies.

As drafted, HB 82 - Cyber Maryland Program - Revisions transfers the Cyber Maryland Program from TEDCO to the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor), alters certain duties of the Program and purposes for which the Cyber Maryland Fund may be used, repeals certain funding requirements related to the Program, and alters the membership of the Cyber Maryland Board.

Chapter 578 of 2023 established the Cyber Maryland Program in TEDCO and tasked the program with creating a cybersecurity talent pipeline, serving as a hub for State workforce development programs in cybersecurity, and generally coordinating cybersecurity, research, and innovation in the State. The Act also created the Cyber Maryland Fund, a special, non-lapsing fund, and the Cyber Maryland Board.

TEDCO is appreciative of the opportunity to manage the program and is proud of the work it has achieved to date under the guidance of the Cyber Maryland Board. Last summer, to better understand the state's robust, but fragmented ecosystem, the Cyber Maryland Program, under the guidance of the Cyber Maryland Board, commissioned and released '[*Cybersecurity Workforce Analysis and Strategy*](#)' which provided an analysis of the current state of Maryland's cybersecurity workforce ecosystem. Building off the findings of the report, the Cyber Maryland Board partnered with the Governor's Workforce Development Board within the Maryland Department of Labor to engage over 65 industry leaders, educators, and other state and local stakeholders across the state to coordinate a unified ecosystem wide action plan.

Throughout this process, it became clear that Maryland is the national epicenter for cybersecurity; as a result, there is a global significance to developing Maryland's cybersecurity workforce. The development of a robust workforce pipeline that meets the demands of Maryland's cybersecurity ecosystem requires extensive resources and staff capacity, which can be achieved most efficiently and effectively through strong mission alignment.

Given the strong strategic alignment between the mission of the Cyber Maryland Program and the mission of the Maryland Department of Labor, TEDCO fully supports the transfer of the Cyber Maryland Program, Fund, and Board as proposed in HB 82, and is committed to working collaboratively and strategically with the Maryland Department of Labor to facilitate the proposed program transfer.

TEDCO appreciates the opportunity to provide a position statement in support of HB 82.