

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 12, 2026

SB 183 - Public Safety - Maryland Cyber Reserve - Established

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 183**, which establishes the Maryland Cyber Reserve within the Military Department to strengthen the State's capacity to prevent and respond to cyber attacks. As cyber threats continue to grow in frequency and sophistication, Maryland must build a resilient, skilled, and mission-ready cybersecurity workforce capable of supporting State and local governments and critical infrastructure.

Maryland's community colleges play a central role in developing the State's cybersecurity talent pipeline. Through affordable, accessible, and industry-aligned programs, community colleges train thousands of students each year in cybersecurity, networking, and related technical fields. These programs serve both traditional students and working adults seeking to upskill or transition into cybersecurity careers, making community colleges uniquely positioned to support a reserve-based cyber response model that relies on trained professionals who can be activated as needed. In particular, MACC's Cyber Workforce Accelerator demonstrates how community colleges can operate at scale to meet Maryland's cybersecurity workforce needs. The Accelerator connects community colleges, employers, and public partners to deliver coordinated training, credentialing, and workforce pathways aligned with real-world cyber defense needs. Senate Bill 183 complements this existing infrastructure by creating a formal mechanism for trained cybersecurity professionals, including those educated through community college programs, to serve the State in times of need while continuing their civilian careers.

By establishing the Maryland Cyber Reserve, the State recognizes cybersecurity as a core component of public safety and emergency preparedness. Leveraging community college-led training initiatives and workforce partnerships will be critical to the long-term success of the Reserve and to ensuring that Maryland has a deep, diverse, and geographically distributed pool of cyber talent ready to respond to emerging threats. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB 183**.

Please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org) with questions.