

The Maryland Cyber Reserve

- A Force Multiplier for State-Wide Protection



About Our Company

No Jurisdiction Left Behind:

Democratizing High-End Cyber Defense.

Culture of Innovation

Operationalizing NIST: From Framework to Frontline Protection."

Ethics and Sustainability

We are committed to sustainable and ethical practices, aiming to positively impact our industry and communities.



A Digital Divide in Defense

The Problem – Uneven Capacity

- **Critical Dependence:** Maryland's elections, public safety, schools, and water systems depend entirely on digital infrastructure.
- **Real Threats:** Ransomware and cyberattacks on schools and water plants have already disrupted services and cost taxpayers millions.
- **The Gap:** While large state agencies have dedicated teams, small counties and municipalities cannot afford 24/7 monitoring or full-time cyber professionals.
- **Implementation Struggle:** Frameworks like NIST exist, but jurisdictions outside of Annapolis lack the personnel to execute them.

The Solution – Senate Bill 183

- **Organizational Structure:** Creates the Maryland Cyber Reserve within the Military Department as part of the organized militia.
- **Core Mission:** Provide technical support to prevent and resolve cyberattacks for government agencies, businesses, and private citizens.
- **Why This Design Works:**
 - **Emergency Status:** Explicitly adds cyberattacks as a trigger for militia activation, similar to natural disasters.
 - **Ready Cadre:** Maintains a standing pool of trained officers and volunteers.
 - **Cost-Effective:** Members serve without pay unless activated, keeping baseline costs low.



Operationalizing NIST Standards

Bridging the implementation gap: Moving from high-level mandates to field-level actions.

Actionable Support:

- Conducting NIST-aligned risk assessments and remediation plans for local governments.
- Deploying standardized playbooks for incident response and threat hunting.
- Using advanced tools like Zero Trust Network Access and SOAR automation to reduce response times.
- Assisting with "Authorization to Operate" (ATO) so small entities don't have to "reinvent the wheel".

Protecting Maryland Businesses & Citizens

- **Direct Assistance:** SB0183 allows the Reserve to help corporations and individual citizens targeted by attacks.
- **First Responder Guidance:** Offering standardized triage for ransomware and account takeovers.
- **Community Resilience:** Delivering tabletop exercises and education for small businesses and nonprofits.
- **Navigational Aid:** Coordinating with existing reporting mechanisms so citizens are not left alone during a crisis.

Governance, Ethics, & Trust

Ethical Safeguards: Regulations will prohibit members from accepting certain compensation or benefits to prevent conflicts of interest or vendor steering.

Accountability: Being situated in the Military Department ensures strict discipline, readiness metrics, and after-action reviews.

Long-Term Workforce Strategy

- **Talent Pipeline:** Engaging students, veterans, and professionals in real-world missions.
- **Partnerships:** Linking the Reserve with universities and K–12 programs to provide practicum-style experience.
- **Outcome:** Building a larger pool of cyber talent that stays in Maryland.



Conclusion & Call to Action



Closing Argument: Existing laws set the direction, but SB0183 provides the "hands and brains" to do the work.



Goal: Ensuring every small town has access to enterprise-grade cyber defense.



Recommendation: A favorable report for SB0183.