



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Katie Savage | Secretary

TO: House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
FROM: Department of Information Technology
RE: House Bill 1239 - Public Safety - Critical Infrastructure Protection
DATE: March 3, 2026
POSITION: Support with Amendments

The Honorable Melissa Wells, Chair
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Wells,

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) respectfully submits this letter in support of House Bill 1239, with amendments.

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) supports the intent of this legislation to strengthen Maryland's ability to identify, assess, and protect critical infrastructure across both public and private sectors. Enhancing coordination and preparedness for cyber and physical threats is essential to maintaining continuity of government services, protecting public safety, and ensuring the resilience of Maryland's economy.

The establishment of a Critical Infrastructure Protection function within the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center represents an important step toward improving statewide situational awareness and fostering stronger collaboration between State agencies, federal partners, and private sector infrastructure owners and operators.

At the same time, DoIT respectfully recommends several amendments to ensure that implementation of this legislation builds upon, rather than duplicates, existing State cybersecurity and risk management structures.

Recommended Amendments

1. Clarify Cybersecurity Leadership

To align with Maryland's existing governance framework, DoIT recommends clarifying that DoIT, through the Office of Security Management, maintains responsibility for statewide cybersecurity standards and oversight.

Suggested Amendment:

Clarify that DoIT directs cybersecurity efforts for units of state government critical infrastructure in coordination with the Critical Infrastructure Protection Branch, ensuring consistency with existing statewide IT security policy and risk management practices.

2. Formalize Coordination with Existing State Cyber Functions

DoIT recommends explicitly recognizing coordination with:

- The Office of Security Management
- Maryland Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MD-ISAC)

Suggested Amendment:

Require coordination with existing State cybersecurity governance structures when conducting assessments, issuing guidance, or developing response frameworks.

3. Maintain Voluntary Engagement Model

DoIT supports the bill's voluntary approach to engagement with private infrastructure owners and recommends preserving that structure.

Suggested Amendment:

Clarify that participation in assessments, reporting, and information-sharing mechanisms remains voluntary unless otherwise required under existing State or federal law.

4. Emphasize Use of Existing Information Sharing Mechanisms

To maximize efficiency and reduce administrative burden:

Suggested Amendment:

Prioritize the use of MD-ISAC as the primary mechanism for operational technology threat intelligence exchange and shared learning.

5. Align Response Authorities

To ensure clear operational roles during incidents:

Suggested Amendment:



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Clarify that MDEM retains responsibility for consequence management while DoIT retains responsibility for cyber incident coordination affecting State systems and networks.

House Bill 1239 presents an important opportunity to strengthen Maryland's critical infrastructure resilience through improved coordination, shared situational awareness, and proactive risk mitigation.

With the amendments outlined above, the legislation can enhance statewide preparedness while ensuring alignment with existing cybersecurity governance and avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort.

DoIT looks forward to continuing to work with the Committee and the bill sponsor to support the successful implementation of this initiative.

Best,

Katie Savage
Secretary
Department of Information Technology