



## House Bill 5

### *State Government - State and Local Government Employees and Contractors - Cybersecurity Training*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**  
**WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Health and Government Operations  
Committee

Date: March 1, 2022

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 5 WITH AMENDMENTS.**

As currently written, this bill preempts county government's decisions regarding cybersecurity trainings for employees. Amendments can bring the bill's approach closer to a mutual framework for collaboration – to advance these goals more flexibly.

County governments are established and complex employers and entities – something as critical as cybersecurity cannot be driven by one-size-fits-all policies. HB 5 overrides local autonomy on how best to implement cybersecurity training programs for their employees.

Counties all currently have thorough local cybersecurity training. Most of Maryland's jurisdictions use the program "KnowB4" for cybersecurity training – which could be mandated to change should this bill be enacted. **After speaking with the bill sponsor, MACo agrees with their intent, which would be to provide additional resources to local governments for cybersecurity training and not mandate what those trainings should be.**

MACo asks the committee to use the following points to guide amendments and best meet the common goals under this initiative:

- 1.) The State can set minimum standards for cybersecurity training that counties can exceed;
- 2.) The State can develop training courses that meet minimum standards set by the State, and counties may opt to use those trainings free of charge;
- 3.) The State will provide additional financial resources to help pay for cybersecurity trainings not provided by the State; and
- 4.) Counties may retain their current cybersecurity training providers and will not be required to use providers determined by the State.

MACo does not oppose the idea of increased cybersecurity training, but as written, HB 5 oversteps the boundaries of local autonomy and does not allow for any county input in the process. Accordingly, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on HB 5.