



Senate Bill 183

Public Safety - Maryland Cyber Reserve - Established

MACo Position: **SUPPORT
WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Date: February 12, 2026

From: Karrington Anderson and Charlotte Fleckenstein

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 183 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill establishes the Maryland Cyber Reserve within the Military Department to provide educational and technical support to help prevent and respond to cyberattacks affecting state, county, and local government agencies, as well as critical infrastructure across Maryland.

Counties support the bill's goal of leveraging cybersecurity expertise to strengthen preparedness and response capabilities. Local governments are frequent targets of increasingly sophisticated cyber threats, and SB 183 represents a positive step toward enhancing statewide coordination and resilience. To ensure clear and effective implementation, MACo requests several clarifying amendments related to county participation and operational coordination.

MACo's amendments focus on clarifying how the Maryland Cyber Reserve would engage with counties in practice. Specifically, the bill would benefit from clearer language regarding county consent, authorization for access to county systems and data, appropriate data protections, and the parameters governing the start and conclusion of Maryland Cyber Reserve assistance. These clarifications would help ensure effective coordination while preserving existing local governance structures.

Ensuring that assistance is voluntary, subject to county authorization, and governed by clear data protections and agreed-upon activation and deactivation criteria would preserve local authority while ensuring effective collaboration. With these clarifications, SB 183 can serve as a valuable and trusted resource for counties during cyber incidents.

For these reasons, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on SB 183 (MACo's suggested "local option" amendment language is included on the next page).

MACo Amendments on SB 183:

On page 4, in line 18, after “(2)” insert “ANY TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO THE COUNTY, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY SHALL BE AT THE REQUEST OR APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.”

(3) THE MARYLAND CYBER RESERVE SHALL OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FROM A LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER, A COUNTY OR CITY ADMINISTRATOR, OR EQUIVALENT TO ACCESS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

(4) ALL INFORMATION ACCESSED OR GENERATED BY THE MARYLAND CYBER RESERVE WHILE ASSISTING A COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY SHALL BE SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE CONFIDENTIALITY, RECORDS RETENTION, AND DATA PROTECTION LAWS, AND SHALL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY.

(5) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO A COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY SHALL BE GOVERNED BY WRITTEN ACTIVATION AND DEACTIVATION CRITERIA AGREED UPON BY THE MARYLAND CYBER RESERVE AND THE COUNTY OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY PRIOR TO ENGAGEMENT.

(6)”.