

HOUSE BILL 235

S2

(PRE-FILED)

5lr0198
CF SB 244

By: **Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee (By Request – Departmental – Information Technology)**

Requested: September 19, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 18, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Information Technology – Cybersecurity Revisions**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the duties of the Cyber Preparedness Unit in the Maryland
4 Department of Emergency Management; altering the duties of the Office of Security
5 Management in the Department of Information Technology; altering the content of
6 a certain report on the activities of the Office and the state of cybersecurity
7 preparedness in the State; altering the responsibilities of the Secretary of
8 Information Technology with regard to information technology policies and a
9 statewide cybersecurity strategy; and generally relating to State cybersecurity.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Public Safety
12 Section 14–104.1(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Public Safety
17 Section 14–104.1(b)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 3.5–2A–04 and 3.5–303(a)(1) and (5)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Safety

14–104.1.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Local government” includes local school systems, local school boards,
and local health departments.

(3) “Unit” means the Cyber Preparedness Unit.

(b) (1) There is a Cyber Preparedness Unit in the Department.

(2) In coordination with the State Chief Information Security Officer, the
Unit shall:

(i) [support local governments in developing a vulnerability
assessment and cyber assessment, including providing local governments with the
resources and information on best practices to complete the assessments;

(ii)] develop and regularly update an online database of cybersecurity
training resources for local government personnel, including technical training resources,
cybersecurity continuity of operations templates, AND consequence management plans[,
and trainings on malware and ransomware detection];

[(iii)] (II) assist local governments in:

1. the development of cybersecurity preparedness and
response plans;

2. implementing best practices and guidance developed by
the State Chief Information Security Officer; and

3. identifying and acquiring resources to complete
appropriate cybersecurity vulnerability assessments;

[(iv)] (III) connect local governments to appropriate resources for
any other purpose related to cybersecurity preparedness and response;

1 [(v)] (IV) as necessary and in coordination with the National Guard,
2 local emergency managers, and other State and local entities, conduct regional
3 cybersecurity preparedness exercises; and

4 [(vi)] (V) establish regional assistance groups to deliver and
5 coordinate support services to local governments, agencies, or regions.

6 (3) The Unit shall support the Office of Security Management in the
7 Department of Information Technology during emergency response efforts.

8 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

9 3.5–2A–04.

10 (a) (1) The Office is responsible for:

11 (i) the direction, coordination, and implementation of the overall
12 cybersecurity strategy and policy for units of State government; and

13 (ii) supporting and coordinating with the Maryland Department of
14 Emergency Management Cyber Preparedness Unit during emergency response efforts.

15 (2) The Office is not responsible for the information technology installation
16 and maintenance operations normally conducted by a unit of State government, a unit of
17 local government, a local school board, a local school system, or a local health department.

18 (b) The Office shall:

19 (1) establish standards to categorize all information collected or
20 maintained by or on behalf of each unit of State government;

21 (2) establish standards to categorize all information systems maintained
22 by or on behalf of each unit of State government;

23 (3) develop guidelines governing the types of information and information
24 systems to be included in each category;

25 (4) establish security requirements for information and information
26 systems in each category;

27 (5) assess the categorization of information and information systems and
28 the associated implementation of the security requirements established under item (4) of
29 this subsection;

30 (6) if the State Chief Information Security Officer determines that there
31 are security vulnerabilities or deficiencies in any information systems, determine and direct

or take actions necessary to correct or remediate the vulnerabilities or deficiencies, which may include requiring the information system to be disconnected;

(7) if the State Chief Information Security Officer determines that there is a cybersecurity threat caused by, **AFFECTING, OR POTENTIALLY AFFECTING** an entity connected to the network established under § 3.5–404 of this title that introduces **OR MAY INTRODUCE** a serious risk to entities connected to the network or to the State, take or direct actions required to mitigate the threat;

(8) manage security awareness training for all appropriate employees of units of State government;

(9) assist in the development of data management, data governance, and data specification standards to promote standardization and reduce risk;

(10) assist in the development of a digital identity standard and specification applicable to all parties communicating, interacting, or conducting business with or on behalf of a unit of State government;

(11) develop and maintain information technology security policy, standards, and guidance documents, consistent with best practices developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(12) to the extent practicable, seek, identify, and inform relevant stakeholders of any available financial assistance provided by the federal government or non-State entities to support the work of the Office;

(13) provide technical assistance to localities in mitigating and recovering from cybersecurity incidents; [and]

(14) provide technical services, advice, and guidance to units of local government to improve cybersecurity preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery practices; **AND**

(15) SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN DEVELOPING A VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND CYBER ASSESSMENT, INCLUDING PROVIDING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH THE RESOURCES AND INFORMATION ON BEST PRACTICES TO COMPLETE THE ASSESSMENTS.

(c) The Office, in coordination with the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, shall:

(1) assist local political subdivisions, including counties, school systems, school boards, and local health departments, in[:

(i) the development of cybersecurity preparedness and response plans; and

(ii) implementing best practices and guidance developed by the Department; and

(2) connect local entities to appropriate resources for any other purpose related to cybersecurity preparedness and response.

(d) The Office, in coordination with the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, may:

(1) conduct regional exercises, as necessary, in coordination with the National Guard, local emergency managers, and other State and local entities; and

(2) establish regional assistance groups to deliver or coordinate support services to local political subdivisions, agencies, or regions.

(e) (1) On or before December 31 each year, the Office shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate [Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs] Committee **ON EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**, the House Appropriations Committee, the House Health and Government Operations Committee, and the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Biotechnology on the activities of the Office and the state of cybersecurity preparedness in Maryland, including:

(i) the activities and accomplishments of the Office during the previous 12 months at the State and local levels; and

(ii) a compilation and analysis of the data from the information contained in the reports received by the Office under § 3.5–405 of this title, including:

1. a summary of the issues identified by the cybersecurity preparedness assessments conducted that year;

2. the status of vulnerability assessments of all units of State government and a timeline for completion and cost to remediate any vulnerabilities exposed;

3. recent audit findings of all units of State government and options to improve findings in future audits, including recommendations for staff, budget, and timing;

4. [analysis of the State's expenditure on cybersecurity relative to overall information technology spending for the prior 3 years and recommendations for changes to the budget, including amount, purpose, and timing to improve State and local cybersecurity preparedness;

5.] efforts to secure financial support for cyber risk mitigation from federal or other non-State resources;

[6.] 5. key performance indicators on the cybersecurity strategies in the Department's information technology master plan, including time, budget, and staff required for implementation; and

[7.] 6. any additional recommendations for improving State and local cybersecurity preparedness.

(2) A report submitted under this subsection may not contain information that reveals cybersecurity vulnerabilities and risks in the State.

(F) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ON OR BEFORE THE THIRD WEDNESDAY IN JANUARY EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND BIOTECHNOLOGY ON:

(I) THE STATE'S EXPENDITURE ON CYBERSECURITY RELATIVE TO OVERALL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPENDING FOR THE PRIOR 3 YEARS; AND

(II) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE BUDGET, INCLUDING THE AMOUNT, PURPOSE, AND TIMING OF FUNDING TO IMPROVE STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY PREPAREDNESS.

(2) IN A YEAR WITH A NEWLY ELECTED GOVERNOR, THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE THE THIRD FRIDAY OF JANUARY.

3.5-303.

(a) The Secretary is responsible for carrying out the following duties:

(1) developing, **IMPLEMENTING**, maintaining, revising, and enforcing information technology policies, procedures, and standards;

(5) developing, **IMPLEMENTING**, and maintaining a statewide cybersecurity strategy that will:

1 (i) centralize the management and direction of cybersecurity
2 strategy within the Executive Branch of State government under the control of the
3 Department; and

4 (ii) serve as the basis for budget allocations for cybersecurity
5 preparedness for the Executive Branch of State government;

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.