

# Cybersecurity is Getting its Moment in Annapolis

Following the pivotal study released by the Maryland Cybersecurity Council, and additional work of the Council, key legislators have proposed an ambitious and essential suite of Bills to improve Maryland's cybersecurity posture.

*From IT modernization and critical infrastructure security, to cyber governance and support for local governments, cybersecurity is getting the attention it deserves in Annapolis this session. In this heightened threat environment, this is the time for action.*

**CAMI was proud to support eight Bills this week through written and oral testimony. Here were some of the highlights:**

## House of Delegates

Sarah Woods, Secretary of the CAMI Board of Directors, joined Del. Kerr's panel during Thursday's hearing to provide critical infrastructure expertise.

- **HB 1339 (SB 810) - Critical Infrastructure Security Act of 2022:** Vulnerabilities in the electrical grid, water treatment plants, transportation systems and other critical infrastructure have made headline news, and are increasingly exploited by bad actors. By authorizing the Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) to take action to reduce disaster risk and critical infrastructure vulnerability, this Bill empowers the Department to create a unified response plan for Maryland. The State will meet the different critical infrastructure sectors where they and each industry subgroup within the Public Service Commission (PSC) will establish their risks, their vulnerabilities, their mitigation approaches, and their needs. An amendment introduced this week provides an opportunity for PSC to contract with CAMI to leverage the expertise of our CyberSWAT Team.

## Senate

Sam Bell, CISO at Edwards Performance Solutions and others joined Sen. Hester's panel during hearings on Tuesday and Thursday to provide cybersecurity expertise. Our Executive Director, Tasha Cornish, also provided favorable oral testimony during this week's hearing.

- **SB 811 (HB 1205) - Modernize Maryland Act of 2022:** This is a critical funding vehicle to modernize Maryland IT systems; in reducing the incidence of ransomware and other data breaches, as outdated, unpatched and legacy systems are a leading entry point for cyber criminals. CAMI representation is included in this Bill, as a member of the Commission to advise on the modernization process.
- **SB 754 (HB 1202) - Local Cybersecurity Support Act of 2022:** Local government agencies provide essential services to Marylanders, but need more governance support and resources to build strong cybersecurity programs. This Bill codifies and fully funds the Cyber Preparedness Unit within MDEM to support local governments in developing vulnerability assessments, response plans, and conducting staff training exercises and implementing security best practices developed by the Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT).
- **SB 812 (HB 1346) - Cybersecurity Coordination and Governance:** Centralizing authority and control of the procurement of information technology for the Executive Branch of State government in DoIT would create incredible efficiencies within the entire security enterprise and reduce spending and unneeded redundancies. By exempting meetings of the Council from the Open Meetings Act, you would create an important space for threat sharing that would best prepare your security professionals to protect our systems and citizens.

## What's next?

- **HB 1334 - Workforce Development - Cybersecurity:** We are working with the Bill sponsors for amendments to center industry-driven solutions. We will be issuing an alert early next week with an update for Tuesday's testimony.

- **SB 810 (HB 1339) - Critical Infrastructure Security Act of 2022:** We will be supporting this bill on March 15 with oral testimony.

### **Other Updates**

- **HB 24 - Cybersecurity Scholarship Program - Alterations:** This Bill has made it out of the committee, with an amendment eliminating the creation of the Loan Repayment Program. The Bill is on track to expand the Cybersecurity Scholarship Program in meaningful ways.